

STAGES OF GINGIVITIS IN YOUR SHELTYE

Most dogs that eat modern dog foods will have some tooth decay!

Canned dog food is considered to be far more harmful for a dogs teeth than hard dry “kibble” is. The choice of dog food is of course up to you, the dogs owner - but we recommend ONLY giving your dog a QUALITY BRAND of dry dog food (remember that the inexpensive “store brands” normally have a LOT of “fillers” and will require more food on a daily basis to give your dog the nutrition that it needs (it will therefor eat more and have more waste as well).



To prevent tooth decay you should (on a regular basis) brush your dogs teeth. It is best if you start this process early (as a puppy) so it will not be a battle to get the teeth brushed. You should start with your puppy by opening its mouth and just rubbing the gums, then progress to the starter tooth brush and BRUSH SOFTLY (remember that this is NOT a procedure that your dog is used too or would have experienced in nature. Using a meat flavored tooth paste (chicken and beef are two common flavors) may be FAR more pleasant to your dog.



A yearly tooth cleaning is a VERY GOOD IDEA for your dog. At the time of the cleaning you could have your pet’s yearly “check up” as well (it is better to have a yearly “check up” for your dog and find a problem early than to wait until you notice that something is wrong with the health of your Sheltie).

If your Sheltie needs its teeth cleaned - PLEASE do not delay! Just as with humans, the tooth decay WILL NOT GET BETTER IF LEFT ALONE! Severe Gingivitis can lead to other health problems and should be taken care of IMMEDIATELY! Failure to take care of your dog’s teeth can also lead to BAD BREATH in your Sheltie.

If your Sheltie gets to the “Advanced Periodontal Disease” stage your dog may have deep pockets of infection and also have bone loss in the area. At this stage an IMMEDIATE cleaning is necessary to save your dogs teeth and health. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TO THIS POINT! Have your dogs teeth cleaned on a regular basis and brush your dogs teeth often (just as you brush at least twice a day, your dogs teeth should be brushed at least once a week and if possible brush them on a daily basis.



Symptoms of Dental Problems In Your Pet

- * Persistent Bad Breath
- * Sensitivity around the mouth
- * Loss of Appetite or Reluctance to Chew Hard Food
- * Pawing at the mouth
- * Difficulty eating & chewing food
- * Bleeding, inflamed or receded gums
- * Plaque (often not visible)
- * Tartar (yellow-brown material)
- * Facial Swelling
- * Drainage from one side of the nose or mouth
- * Loose, broken, or missing teeth
- * Baby teeth after 7 months old

