

How to brush your dog's teeth (really)

Don't know where to start? It's not as hard as you think. Try these easy (and fun!) first steps ...



1

Place dog toothpaste on your finger. Let the dog lick it as you gently introduce a finger into her mouth. Rub and massage the gums.



2

Place dog-friendly toothpaste on a cotton-tipped swab and rub along the gum line.



3

Use a wet washcloth—soaked in chicken or beef broth—to massage the teeth and gums.



4

Use rubber toys, such as Kongs. Apply dog toothpaste to the surface or grooves and let the dog chew on them.



5

Offer hard, crunchy treats, such as carrots, apples or rice cakes. These are natural toothbrushes that help keep teeth clean and massage the gums. (While nothing works as good as a toothbrush, there are always alternatives. If the dog doesn't like the taste of toothpaste, you can just use water.)