



## It is essential to include dental care and hygiene (mouth, teeth and gums) in the care of your greyhound/s.

If teeth are not maintained, bacteria in the mouth cause a coating called plaque. If left plaque thickens and hardens becoming tartar or calculus. This causes inflammation of the gums often resulting in a condition called gingivitis. Gingivitis and dental disease if not treated, can lead to serious and even life-threatening diseases such as:

- Heart Infections
- Liver Infections
- Sepsis (Blood infection)
- Bone Infections
- Poor appetite
- Weight loss [due to pain of eating]

As this condition is common in the greyhound breed, it can be controlled with ongoing attention. GRSA recommend participants maintain their greyhound's teeth from an early age to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



We have included a **step by step guide** that will get greyhounds used to having their teeth cleaned over time. You will find this process easier when your greyhound is calm and comfortable and offered a special treat at the end of each cleaning session. If at any time a greyhound starts to struggle, **STOP** the process immediately. This process should be a positive experience.

**Step 1:** Start by gently lifting the sides of your greyhound's mouth, this will get them used to you touching their mouth, teeth and gums.

**Step 2:** Using a soft cloth wrapped around your finger, gently rub the teeth, working mostly on the outside [this is where the plaque and tartar will be built up the most]

**NOTE\*** Go very gently on the gums

**Step 3:** Soak a soft toothbrush in warm water [using chicken or beef stock is a great idea to get them to enjoy the taste]

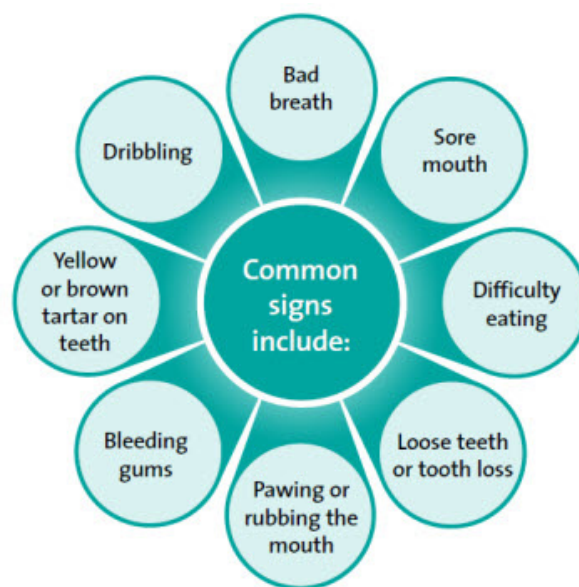
**NOTE\*** stock is not to be used as a cleaning agent. Lift up the side of the mouth and gently start brushing the for 2 – 5 minutes or until your greyhound has had enough



**Step 4:** Once your greyhound/s are used to the brushing process you can introduce canine toothpaste.

**NOTE: Never use human toothpaste!** Canine toothpaste can be purchased at your local pet shop.

**Step 5:** We recommend that you check your greyhound's teeth and gums regularly for any signs of decay.



### Additional teeth cleaning aids:

As well as brushing teeth, there are some other ways to maintain your greyhound's dental hygiene:

- Avoid feeding a wet food diet only. Feeding dry [unsoaked] kibble majority of the time or occasionally will help scrape off tartar and plaque off their teeth.
- Offer dental sticks, chew toys or treat them with raw bones.  
**NOTE: Be sure to avoid cooked bones or small bones**

### Veterinary checks

Although cleaning and brushing process can be done in the comfort of your kennels, we highly recommend you have your greyhound's teeth checked and cleaned every 6 - 12 months by a qualified veterinary surgeon.

Keeping on top of your greyhound/s dental care and hygiene may seem like more time and effort. However, this could save you expensive veterinary bills. Additionally, this may will increase your chances of a quick adoption once your greyhound has finished their racing career, and most importantly keep your greyhound as healthy and happy as possible in all stages of their lives.