

immune system, and otherwise protect your dog from situations that may make it ill. A diet that is easily digested will be best for your dog while it is recovering.

Your dog will also continue to be a contagion risk to other dogs for at least two months after the initial recovery. You will need to isolate your dog from other dogs for a period of time, and you may want to tell neighbors who have dogs that they will need to have their own pets tested. Wash all of the objects your dog uses (e.g., dishes, crate, kennel, toys) with non-toxic cleaners. Recovery comes with long-term immunity against the parvovirus, but it is no guarantee that your pet will not be infected with the virus again.

## **Prevention**

The best prevention you can take against CPV infection is to follow the correct protocol for vaccination. Young puppies should be vaccinated at six, nine, and twelve weeks, and should not be socialized with outside dogs until at least two weeks after their last vaccinations. High-risk breeds may require a longer initial vaccination period of up to 22 weeks.

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[http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c\\_dg\\_canine\\_parvovirus\\_infection](http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_dg_canine_parvovirus_infection)

## **VACCINATIONS**

Your puppy should have the first vaccination for Distemper and Parvo at 6-8 weeks of age followed by a booster two weeks later. At four months of age-when the pup receives his rabies vaccination- a third Distemper and Parvo shot is given. Following those initial vaccinations, a dog receives a Distemper and Parvo vaccination once a year.

Remember that vaccines do not treat existing disease or prevent illness from developing in animals that are already infected but not yet showing signs. Vaccination is a *preventative* measure to protect your pet from infectious diseases *before* possible exposure.

## **Lyme Disease in Dogs**

Lyme disease is one of the most common tick-transmitted diseases in the world but only causes symptoms in 5-10% of affected dogs. It is caused by a spirochete (bacteria) species of the *Borrelia burgdorferi* group. When infection leads to disease in dogs, the dominant clinical feature is recurrent lameness due to inflammation of the joints. There may also be a lack of appetite and depression. More serious complications include damage to the kidneys, and rarely, heart or nervous system disease.

Kidney disease appears to be more prevalent in Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, Shetland sheepdogs, and Bernese Mountain dogs. Experimentally, young dogs appear to be more susceptible to Lyme disease than older dogs. Transmission of the disease has been reported in dogs throughout the United States and Europe, but is most prevalent in the upper Midwestern states, the Atlantic seaboard, and the Pacific coastal states.

## SYMPTOMS AND TYPES

Many dogs who develop Lyme disease have recurrent lameness due to inflammation of the joints. Sometimes the lameness lasts for only three to four days but recurs days to weeks later, either in the same leg or in other legs. This is known as "shifting-leg lameness." One or more joints may be swollen, warm, and painful.

Some dogs may also develop kidney problems. Lyme disease sometimes leads to glomerulonephritis – inflammation and accompanying dysfunction of the kidney's glomeruli (essentially, a blood filter). Eventually, kidney failure may set in as the dog begins to exhibit such signs as vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite, weight loss, increased urination and thirst, and abnormal fluid buildups.

Other symptoms associated with Lyme disease include:

- Stiff walk with an arched back
- Sensitivity to touch
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever, lack of appetite, and depression
- Superficial lymph nodes close to the site of the infecting tick bite may be swollen
- Heart abnormalities are reported, but rare
- Nervous system complications (rare)

## CAUSES

*Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease, is transmitted by slow-feeding, hard-shelled deer ticks (*Ixodes* spp.). Infection typically occurs after the *Borrelia*-carrying tick has been attached to the dog for at 2-3 days.

## DIAGNOSIS

You will need to give a thorough history of your dog's health, including a background of symptoms and possible incidents that might have precipitated them. The history you provide may give your veterinarian clues as to which organs are being affected. Your veterinarian may run some combination of blood chemistry tests, a complete blood cell count, a urinalysis, fecal examinations, X-rays, and tests specific to diagnosing Lyme disease (e.g., serology). Fluid from the affected joints may also be drawn for analysis.

There are many causes for arthritis, and your veterinarian will focus on differentiating arthritis initiated by Lyme disease from other inflammatory arthritic disorders, such as trauma, degenerative joint disease, or osteochondritis dissecans (a condition found in large, fast growing breeds of puppies). Immune-mediated diseases will also be considered as a possible cause of the symptoms. An X-ray of the painful joints will allow your doctor to examine the bones for abnormalities.

## TREATMENT

If the diagnosis is Lyme disease, your dog will be treated as an outpatient unless their condition is unstable (e.g., severe kidney disease). Doxycycline is the most common antibiotic that is prescribed for Lyme disease, but others are also available and effective. The recommended treatment length is usually four weeks, but longer courses may be necessary in some cases. Your veterinarian may also prescribe an anti-inflammatory (pain reliever) if your dog is especially uncomfortable.

Unfortunately, antibiotic treatment does not always completely eliminate infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria. Symptoms may resolve but then return at a later date, and the development of kidney disease in the future is always a worry.

## LIVING AND MANAGEMENT

Improvement in sudden (acute) inflammation of the joints caused by *Borrelia* should be seen within three to five days of antibiotic treatment. If there is no improvement within three to five days, your veterinarian will want to reevaluate your dog.

## PREVENTION

If possible, avoid allowing your dog to roam in tick-infested environments where Lyme disease is common. Check your dog's coat and skin daily and remove ticks by hand. Your veterinarian can also recommend a variety of sprays, collars, and spot-on topical products that kill and repel ticks. Such products should be used under a veterinarian's supervision and according to the label's directions. Lyme vaccines are available, but their use is somewhat controversial. Talk to your veterinarian to see if Lyme vaccination is right for your dog.

[http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c\\_dg\\_lyme\\_disease](http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_dg_lyme_disease)

# PARASITES

Dogs are victims of several internal parasites frequently referred to as worms. The most common are the roundworms that infest most puppies at some time in their young lives and tapeworms that can be a big problem when flea infestations are high.

Evidence of roundworms and tapeworms can be seen without the aid of a microscope, but other worms are not so easily diagnosed. Occasionally adult whipworms can be seen in the stool when the infestation has already caused some debilitation or weight loss in the dog.

Early diagnosis of the presence and species of intestinal parasite is important, for not all worms respond to the same treatment. Therefore, stool samples should be taken to the veterinarian for microscopic examination if worms are suspected. Many veterinarians include the stool check as part of the annual health examination.

Most worm infestations cause any or all of these symptoms: diarrhea, perhaps with blood in the stool; weight loss; dry hair; general poor appearance; and vomiting, perhaps with worms in the vomitus. However, some infestations cause few or no symptoms; in fact some worm eggs or larvae can be dormant in the dog's body and activated only in times of stress, or in the case of roundworms, until the latter stages of pregnancy, when they activate and infest the soon-to-be-born puppies.

## Roundworms

Roundworms are the most common of the parasitic worms found inside a dog. Almost all dogs become infected with them at some time in their lives, usually as puppies. Roundworms may be contracted in different ways, making them easy to spread and hard to control.

Your dog may be infected with roundworms from the time it is born because often the mother passes the worms to the puppy while it is still in her body. Roundworms can also develop in a puppy after it is born when the puppy eats larvated eggs from the environment or drinks worm larvae (young worms) in the mother's milk. Another way roundworms are passed is when roundworm larvae are present in the tissues of a mouse or another small mammal and the puppy eats the animal.

### *How will roundworms affect my dog?*

Adult roundworms live in the affected dog's intestines. Many dogs do not have signs of infection; however, dogs with major roundworm infections, especially puppies, show diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, dull hair, and a potbellied appearance. The dog may cough if the roundworms move into the lungs.

You may notice the adult roundworms in your dog's feces or vomit. They will appear white or light brown in color and may be several inches long.

### *How do I prevent my dog from getting roundworms?*

Because roundworms can enter your dog's body in many different ways, it is essential to keep your dog's living area clean, remove feces regularly, and, if possible, prevent your dog from eating wild animals that may carry roundworms.

To get rid of roundworms that are passed from the mother dog, puppies should be treated at 2, 4, 6, and 8 weeks of age and then receive a preventive treatment monthly. Fecal (stool) examinations should be conducted 2 to 4 times during the first year of life and 1 or 2 times each year in adults. Nursing mothers should be kept on monthly preventive and treated along with their puppies to decrease the risk of transmission.

Many heartworm preventives also control roundworms. Ask your veterinarian about prevention and treatment choices that are appropriate for your dog.

### ***Can humans be harmed by roundworms?***

Roundworms do pose a significant risk to humans. Contact with contaminated soil or dog feces can result in human ingestion and infection. Roundworm eggs may accumulate in significant numbers in the soil where pets deposit feces. Once infected, the worms can cause eye, lung, heart and neurologic signs in people.

Children should not be allowed to play where animals have passed feces. Individuals who have direct contact with soil that may have been contaminated by cat or dog feces should wear gloves or wash their hands immediately.

## **Hookworms**

Similar to tapeworms and roundworms, hookworms are intestinal parasites that live in the digestive system of your dog. The hookworm attaches to the lining of the intestinal wall and feeds on your dog's blood. Its eggs are ejected into the digestive tract and pass into the environment through your dog's feces.

Larvae (young hookworms) that hatch from hookworm eggs live in the soil. These larvae can infect your dog simply through contact and penetration of the skin and through the dog eating the larvae when they ingest dirt or during their routine licking (cleaning).

### ***How will hookworms affect my dog?***

Hookworms suck blood and therefore cause internal blood loss. They are a serious threat to dogs, especially young puppies that may not survive the blood loss without transfusions. In older animals the blood loss may be more chronic, and the pet may have diarrhea and show weight loss.

If you think your dog is infected with hookworms, call your veterinarian to schedule an appointment for evaluation, diagnosis, and safe, effective treatment.

### ***How do I prevent my dog from getting hookworms?***

Similar to steps for prevention of other intestinal parasites, it is essential to keep your dog's surroundings clean and prevent the dog from being in contaminated areas.

Puppies should be treated for hookworms at 2, 4, 6, and 8 weeks of age with a deworming medication you can get from your veterinarian. This frequent treatment schedule is recommended due to the very high rate of hookworm infection in newborn puppies. Most monthly heartworm preventatives include a drug to prevent to treat and prevent infections so additional deworming medications are usually not required if the dog is reliably treated with a heartworm preventive. Fecal examinations should be conducted 2 to 4 times during the first year of life and 1 to 2 times per year in adults. Nursing mothers should be treated along with their puppies.

Consult your veterinarian for safe and effective prevention and treatment options.

### ***Can humans be harmed by hookworms?***

Some hookworms of dogs can infect humans by penetrating the skin. This is most likely to occur when walking barefoot on the beach, working in the garden or other areas where pets may deposit feces. Infection usually results in an itching sensation at the point where the larvae enter the skin and visible tracks on the skin. The condition is easily treated but can cause mild to extreme discomfort in the affected person. One species of hookworm that infects dogs is known to develop in the human intestine, too, where it may cause disease.

## Tapeworms

Tapeworms are long, flat worms that attach themselves to your dog's intestines. A tapeworm body consists of multiple parts, or segments, each with its own reproductive organs. Tapeworm infections are usually diagnosed by finding segments—which appear as small white worms that may look like grains of rice or seeds—on the rear end of your dog, in your dog's feces, or where your dog lives and sleeps.

There are several different kinds, or species, of tapeworms that can infect your dog, each with stage(s) in a different intermediate (in-between) host, which the dog eats to become infected. *Dipylidium caninum* is a tapeworm that uses fleas as its intermediate host, whereas *Taenia* and *Echinococcus* species use small rodents (mice, rats, squirrels), rabbits, or large animals (such as deer or sheep) as their intermediate hosts.

### ***How will tapeworms affect my dog?***

Dogs with tapeworm infections usually are not sick and do not lose weight from the worms. Contrary to popular belief, dogs that “scoot” on their rear ends are generally doing it for reasons other than having tapeworms, such as blocked or irritated anal sacs (pouches located in your dog's rear end) or other skin inflammation of the rear.

### ***How do I prevent my dog from getting tapeworms?***

Try to keep your dog from coming in contact with intermediate hosts that contain tapeworm larvae. Because fleas are an intermediate host for the most common kind of tapeworm, consistent, safe, and effective flea control is an essential prevention measure.

If you think your dog is infected with tapeworms, call your veterinarian for an appointment to get an accurate diagnosis and safe, effective treatment options.

To prevent *Taenia* and *Dipylidium* tapeworm infections in dogs, administer a monthly heartworm preventive that contains a drug specific for tapeworm infections. For more information about human infections, please visit [www.cdc.gov/parasites](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites).

### ***Can humans be harmed by tapeworms?***

Certain tapeworms found in dogs or cats may cause serious disease in humans. Fortunately, these tapeworms (*Echinococcus* species) are uncommon in the United States and are readily treated by prescriptions available from your veterinarian. There are rare reports of *Dipylidium* (a common tapeworm in pets) infections in children, but these infections are not associated with significant disease.

## Whipworms

The whipworm is one of the four most common intestinal parasites of dogs. Whipworms reside in the cecum, which is inside your dog's body where the small intestine and large intestine meet.

Dogs become infected with whipworms by swallowing infective whipworm eggs in soil or other substances that may contain dog feces.

### ***How will whipworms affect my dog?***

Dogs that are infected with a few whipworms may not have any signs of infection. More severe infections can cause bloody diarrhea. If an infected dog is not treated, then severe whipworm infection can cause serious disease and even death.

***How do I prevent my dog from getting whipworms?***

Whipworm infections can be prevented by removing your dog's feces regularly from your yard. Because whipworms are sometimes more difficult to diagnose than other intestinal parasites, it is important that you take your dog to see a veterinarian at least annually for a properly conducted fecal examination (test of your dog's feces).

Your veterinarian can prescribe safe and effective products that treat and control whipworm infections.

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[http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c\\_dg\\_canine\\_parvovirus\\_infection](http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_dg_canine_parvovirus_infection)

# TRIMMING YOUR DOG'S NAILS

## Trimming Your Dog's Nails

Nail trimming is an important part of a regular grooming routine. If your dog's nails get too long, they can break which is painful and sometimes results in infection. Long nails can also cause an irregular gait that leads to skeletal damage.

Despite its importance, many people can't or don't like to trim their dog's nails. It's a task that can make both people and dogs anxious. How do you know exactly where to cut the nail? What if you trim the nail too close and cut the sensitive quick? What if your dog seems worried? Although it can seem daunting, if you keep a few guidelines in mind and maintain a consistent schedule, nail trimming doesn't have to become a stressful chore.

## The Two Keys to Nail Trimming Success

No matter what age, size, sex or breed of dog you have, you can make nail trimming a pleasant part of your dog's life if you keep two main ideas in mind:

- Teach your dog to associate nail trimming with things he/she loves.
- Take it slow and easy.

## Associate Nail Trimming with Good Things

Many dogs find nail trimming unpleasant—and who can blame them? Some seem to naturally dislike the sensation of people handling their feet. Trimming can also cause discomfort when the clippers squeeze or slightly twist the nail. It can even cause pain and bleeding if you accidentally cut the nail too short and hit the sensitive quick.

Luckily, you can help your dog learn to tolerate, and maybe even enjoy, nail trimming. If he learns that it reliably leads to wonderful things—like special treats, brand-new chew toys, the start of a favorite game, a walk in the park or dinnertime—he can learn to love it. So whenever you trim your dog's nails, immediately follow up with things he loves. For example, clip a nail and then feed your dog a delicious treat. Clip another nail or two and feed another treat. With repetition and a little time, your dog will probably decide that getting his nails done is fun, not frightening.

## Take It Slow and Easy

If your dog isn't used to getting his nails trimmed, the last thing you want to do is frighten and overwhelm him/her by rushing the process. Take a little extra time to slowly introduce the nail clippers, as well as the sensations involved in trimming. The first time you use the clippers, don't plan on giving your dog a full pedicure. Instead, just clip one or two nails, and remember to give your dog treats or play a game right after trimming.

It will also help if you approach him/her calmly and speak in quiet, soothing tones. If you want him/her to relax while you're trimming his nails, you'll need to be relaxed, too.

# HOW TO TRIM YOUR DOG'S NAILS

## Before You Start

### Which Clippers to Use

There are two kinds of nail clippers: a guillotine type and a scissors type. The guillotine trimmer has a stationary hole where the nail goes through and a blade that moves up to cut the nail when you squeeze the handles of the trimmer. The scissors type works just like a pair of scissors. You open them and put the tip of your dog's nail between the blades to trim it. Visit a pet store to look at both styles of trimmers and then choose whichever you feel most comfortable with.

### Preparing Your Dog

If you've never trimmed your dog's nails before, spend a few days getting him/her used to having his/her feet handled first.

- Pick up one of your dog's paws and gently touch his/her toes and nails for a few seconds.
- Release his/her paw and immediately give him/her something delicious, like a small piece of cheese or chicken.
- Repeat steps one and two for a couple of minutes.

After a day or two of practicing steps 1 to 3, if your dog seems comfortable with you touching his/her paws and nails, get out the nail clippers and move on to step four:

- Pick up your dog's paw and touch the clippers to one of his/her nails. (Do not actually trim the nail yet.)
- Immediately feed your dog a treat.
- Repeat steps four and five for several minutes.

## Getting Started

After another day or two of practicing steps 4 to 6, as long as your dog still seems relaxed when you handle his/her paws, try trimming a nail or two. Start your nail-trimming session when your dog is sleepy or well-exercised. Remember to give your dog a tasty treat after trimming each nail.



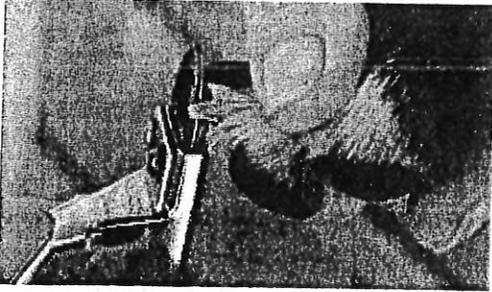
Guillotine trimmer, with the cutting blade facing the 

### How to Trim

Get some treats and your clippers, and take your dog to a quiet area. Keep a clotting powder, such as Kwik Stop® Styptic Powder, close at hand when you trim your dog's nails so that you can quickly stop the bleeding if you accidentally cut the quick. Choose a nail to trim. Take your dog's toe and hold it firmly but gently between your fingers. If you are using a scissors-type trimmer, hold them at a right angle to the nail with the tip of the nail between the blades. Quickly squeeze the handles to close the scissors and cut the nail. If you are using a

guillotine-type trimmer, insert the tip of your dog's nail into the hole, holding the trimmer perpendicular to the nail so that you cut from top to bottom, not side to side. To be absolutely sure of where you're cutting, you can face the cutting blade toward you rather than your dog. To produce a cleaner cut, you can face the cutting blade toward your dog, but you won't be able to see exactly where the blade will make contact with the nail. Choose

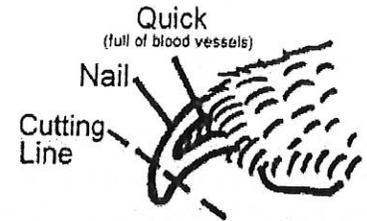
whichever orientation makes you most comfortable. When you have positioned the trimmer in the right place, squeeze the handles to cut through your dog's nail.



The proper place to trim the nail.

### Where to Trim

Knowing where to trim a nail takes some skill. If your dog has clear nails, you can see the live quick, which looks pink. Cut the nail no closer than about two millimeters from the quick. If your dog has dark nails, you can avoid cutting into the



quick by trimming one little sliver of nail at a time, starting with the tip. As you cut slices off your dog's nail, look at the exposed edge of the cut nail. As you are trimming the nail, you will notice the center is white. Keep trimming until the white center transitions to a dark, shiny center and then stop! If you do not, you will cut into the quick, causing pain and bleeding. Another option with black nails is to have an assistant use a flashlight to back-light each of your dog's nails while you trim. The light from behind the nail allows you to clearly see the pink quick.



Trimming the dewclaw.

Don't forget to trim your dog's dewclaws as well. Most dogs just have dewclaws on their front legs, but some dogs have one, and sometimes even two, sets of dewclaws on their rear legs. If your dog does not have dewclaws on his/her front legs, he/she had them surgically removed earlier in life.

### Finishing the Job

As long as your dog does not seem upset when you trim a nail or two, you can continue to trim nails over the next few days until you have trimmed them all. Trim two or three at a time, always delivering a treat after trimming each nail. The next time your dog's nails need trimming, you can try trimming more nails per sitting. Eventually, you will be able to trim all of his/her nails at one time. To make sure your dog continues to feel comfortable with nail trimming, keep delivering treats during and right after trimming time.

## Tips and Troubleshooting

### If You Make a Mistake



Cutting the nail this short would cause bleeding. If you look closely, you can see that the quick, where the nail is pink, is too close to the blade of the clippers.

If you do trim your dog's nail too short and cut the quick, which contains live blood vessels, the nail will bleed and your dog will likely yelp and pull away. The bleeding can be profuse and long lasting. Stay calm, talk in a soothing voice and immediately feed your dog a bunch of tasty treats. Then apply your clotting powder directly to the exposed bleeding edge to stop the bleeding. Then stop the trimming session and try again in a day or so.

Cutting the nail this short would cause bleeding. If you look closely, you can see that the quick, where the nail is pink, is too close to the blade of the clippers.

## **If Your Dog Seems Upset**

Some dogs show fearful or aggressive behavior when their pet parents attempt to trim their nails. Watch carefully for signs of distress, such as panting, drooling, trembling, jerking his/her paw away, trying to escape or hide, whining, freezing, crouching or cowering, tucking the tail, growling, snarling, showing teeth, snapping or biting. If you notice any of these signs, please see consult with your veterinarian. If your dog is aggressive, you may need help from a qualified professional, such as a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB) or a veterinary behaviorist (Dip ACVB). If you can't find one of these professionals in your area, you may be able to find a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT). If you elect to hire a CPDT, be sure to determine whether she or he has professional training and experience in treating fear and aggression as this treatment is beyond what CPDT certification requires.

## **Should You Take Your Dog to the Vet for Trimming?**

Some people prefer to take their dogs to the veterinary clinic for nail trimming because they do not have the time, tools or experience to properly trim nails themselves. As long as you remind the veterinary staff not to cut your dog's nails too short, this option might work well for you and your dog. However, keep in mind that the veterinary environment can cause many dogs significant anxiety. If you take your dog to the vet for nail trimming, watch for signs of distress, such as trembling, panting, drooling, trying to escape or hide, crouching, cowering or whimpering. If you see any of these signs, ask a vet to show you how to trim your dog's nails so you can do it yourself at home to spare your dog unnecessary anxiety.

## **An Alternative to Nail Trimming: Using a Dremel® Tool**

Instead of trimming their dogs' nails, some people use a special tool, such as a Dremel, to grind them down. Because this kind of tool sands the nail, much like an emery board you would use to file your own nails, you can avoid sharp edges and split nails, which are two disadvantages of using clippers.

## **What *NOT* to Do**

- Do not physically punish or yell at your dog if he/she resists nail trimming. Doing this will only make your dog feel worse about the activity, and it will probably worsen his/her behavior.
- Do not force your dog to submit to nail trimming if he/she is obviously frightened.

**Source:** <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/trimming-your-dogs-nails>

# DENTAL HEALTH

Dogs need dental care, too! Unfortunately, dental hygiene for dogs is sometimes overlooked. Many people seem to just expect dogs to have bad breath, and few people brush their dogs' teeth frequently enough. Dental hygiene is just as important to your dog's overall health as things like nutrition, proper exercise and routine grooming. Help keep your dog healthy – pay attention to those pearly whites!

## Monitoring Your Dog's Dental Health

Catching teeth problems early will help avoid severe dental disease. The simplest way to keep track of your dog's teeth is to look at them on a regular basis and be aware of signs that may indicate a problem. To inspect your dog's teeth, lift the lips all around the mouth, looking at the front and back teeth as closely as possible. Be gentle and use caution so you do not accidentally get nipped! Your veterinarian will also take a look at your dog's teeth during routine examinations, so make sure you keep up with these – visit your vet every 6-12 months for wellness check-ups. Contact your vet if any problems arise. Watch for the following signs:

- Halitosis (bad breath)
- Reluctance to chew / crying out when chewing
- Increased salivation
- Red and/or puffy gums
- Bleeding gums
- Tartar / Calculus (hard coating on teeth that is usually brown or yellow; results from plaque build-up)
- Missing and/or loose teeth
- Anything else about the mouth that appears unusual

## The Dangers of Dental Disease

Plaque builds up on the teeth and turns into tartar, or calculus. These areas grow bacteria and eat away at the teeth and gums. Halitosis, periodontal disease, oral pain and tooth loss can occur. However, the bacteria not only cause disease in the mouth – they can also affect other parts of the body, like the heart and kidneys. The most important thing to do is address dental disease as soon as it is detected, no matter how minor. Better yet, work hard to prevent it!

## Preventing Dental Disease in Dogs

There are several things you can do to help keep your dog's teeth in good shape. Start a dental care routine as early as possible in your dog's life so he get used to the feeling of having his/her teeth brushed and inspected. Puppies have 28 deciduous teeth that typically fall out by about six months of age. By this time, your dog should be getting his/her teeth brushed regularly. If you decide to brush your dog's teeth, here are some important tips to keep in mind:

1. NEVER brush your dog's teeth with human toothpaste – it can make your dog sick! Use special enzymatic toothpaste made especially for dogs. The same goes for oral rinses.
2. Plaque begins to turn into tartar / calculus within 24-48 hours, so daily brushing is recommended. Work your dog's tooth brushing into your own routine – consider brushing his/her teeth around the same time you do yours so it will be easier to remember.