Brushing Your Pet’s Teeth

4 Basic Steps

1. Place your non-dominant hand in a C-Shape around the muzzle of your pet so the mouth is kept closed.

2. Use a soft-bristled toothbrush:
   - First, dampen the brush with water only* and place where the tooth and gingiva (gum) meet.
   - Then, angle the bristles at 45 degrees toward the gum line.
   *Using water instead of flavored toothpaste will deter your pet from chewing on the brush.

3. Move the brush in a circular motion with mild pressure. Too much pressure can damage and irritate the gingiva.
   ***Mild bleeding may occur during the first few episodes of brushing.***

4. Use toothpaste specifically for dogs and cats; apply some paste with your finger around the gingiva and teeth.
   *Remember*
   Toothpaste is not required for brushing; the mechanical motion of the bristles is essential for plaque removal.

*Copyright: MJR-VHUP Dentistry and Oral Surgery - Jeanette Hernandez, RDH, CVT*