



Dental Hygiene and Teething

A very important aspect of your puppy's wellness is their oral health. When raisers first receive their puppies they will likely be 4-6mo old and still have some of their baby teeth. These teeth should fall out naturally and are often swallowed by the puppy or found lying on the floor. When a baby tooth is loose and preparing to fall out raisers may find small amounts of blood on the puppy's toys or bedding, both of which are normal. Teething can cause some discomfort and it is not uncommon for puppies to chew more often or less often during this time. Raisers should inspect their puppy's mouth regularly to ensure the baby teeth are falling out and adult teeth are coming in.

If you find that the puppy has both an adult tooth and a baby tooth in the same area you should monitor and let the AHM know.

As with all body handling, it is key to build your puppy's comfort with body handling at a young age. Using the shaping technique described in the Nail Trimming section you should be able to gradually handle your puppy's mouth and examine their teeth without issue.

Although not required, raisers are strongly encouraged to brush their puppy's teeth and/or provide veterinary-approved dental chews.

Only use products specifically designed for dogs as human toothpaste can be toxic if ingested.

Puppies should always be provided with durable toys to chew which will also help to maintain proper dental hygiene.

If you notice that your puppy has foul smelling breath, is overly uncomfortable with their mouth being handled or has any chipped, cracked or discolored teeth please reach out to the PDM or AHM for further assistance.