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## **Tartar Control Methods**

### **1. CET Enzymatic Dentrifice Toothpaste**

This is the best available toothpaste for pets. It can be purchased alone or in a kit with a special pet toothbrush or finger toothbrush. See our outline “Training Your Pet for Brushing Its Teeth.” You may request this from any member of our staff.

### **2. CET Chews for dogs and cats**

Select cuts of beefhide for dogs and freeze-dried fish rolls are specially treated with enzymes. These enzymes when mixed with saliva are triggered and enhance the naturally occurring defense mechanism of the mouth which aids in cleaning the teeth. They also provide a long-lasting mild abrasive action which helps clean teeth. Samples are available upon request.

### **3. t/d Prescription Diet**

Hill's® has developed this prescription diet in separate forms for both dogs and cats. The *oversized dry kibble*, which is hard, helps reduce stain and plaque. This diet is designed to extend the time period between teeth cleanings. Samples are available upon request. **t/d** can be fed as a balanced maintenance diet for daily feeding, or the kibble can be used as “treats”.

It is important to recognize that once subgingival tartar has developed (periodontitis), your pet's teeth will need cleaning, polishing and fluoride treatment. Brushing and other tartar control methods will be of little help until the teeth are cleaned. Once we have cleaned your pet's teeth, a process which requires light general anesthesia, it will be a good time to begin these tartar control methods.

Remember, **tooth brushing remains the best home method for removing plaque and preventing periodontal disease.** *CET Chews and t/d* are excellent additional means to control plaque and tartar.

