



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

National Pet Dental Health Month



breath could be an indication of poor dental health or a serious medical condition.

Just like us, pets can suffer from a wide variety of dental ailments that can lead to bad breath, broken or missing teeth, trouble eating or even abscesses or infection. In cases of extreme decay or infection, excessive bacteria can build and end up in the bloodstream, which can turn into a deadly blood infection.

Signs of poor dental health can be

- bad breath
- broken or loose teeth
- teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar
- abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food
- reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- pain
- bleeding from the gums
- swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth
- abscesses or infected teeth

Thankfully, most pets can be trained to accept having their teeth brushed. NEVER use human toothpaste on a pet. There are specially made flavored toothpastes for pets that are safe for animal use. Start by getting your pet used to you handling their mouths. Always be gentle with your pet while lifting their lips or moving around their tongues. This is also the perfect time to check your pet's gum color; gums should always be a medium shade of pink. Pale/white gum color can mean anemia; yellow can indicate jaundice and a blue/gray color can indicate lack of oxygen in the cells. After checking the gum color, inspect your pet's mouths for signs of injury or trauma. Pets love to play with their mouths, and a ball, rope or chew toy can accidentally lead to a

Health Tip for the Season

Brushing your pet's teeth is not only good for fresh breath and tooth health, but it's important for your pet's overall health and wellness. Broken and infected teeth or abscesses can lead to bacteria entering the bloodstream and could cause a life-threatening blood infection. In addition, pets with broken or missing teeth may have trouble chewing and eating, leading to a higher risk of choking and malnutrition.

Training Tip for the Season

Be patient with your pet as you are getting them used to having their teeth brushed. Start slowly by giving them a taste of the pet safe toothpaste, then slowly lift their lip until you see the teeth and gum line. Gently brush in circular motions with a pet toothbrush, or rubber cleaning finger, or

mouth, gum or tooth injury.

Allow the pet to have a small taste of the toothpaste to introduce the flavor and consistency of toothpaste. Slowly introduce the toothbrush or rubber cleaning finger into your pet's mouth, making sure to watch for signs of agitation or stress. If your pet is in pain or uncomfortable, a pet parent can end up getting bit. Make slow, gentle circles across the pet's teeth and gum line, making sure to get the back molars as well. If your pet needs to take breaks, allow them a minute.

To help keep teeth clean and healthy between brushing, there are products that can be sprayed directly into your pet's mouth or added to their water bowls. Dental sticks and toys won't work to remove plaque and decay and often times can cause more harm than good with sharp, jagged points injuring the gums and soft tissue of the mouth. In cases of extreme decay or heavy tartar build-up, it may be best to seek out the help of your pet's medical professional.

Keeping your pet's mouth clean and healthy will benefit them for their entire lives and lowers the risk of pain, decay and infection. As an added bonus, pet parents won't have to worry about the pesky pet breath smell!

cotton swab. Check the gums for abnormal coloring or injury. Gums should be healthy shade of pink. Inspect the mouth for broken teeth, growths or injuries. If your pet is suffering from hardened tartar build-up, there are dental sprays that can be put directly on the teeth or added to a pet's water. Always remember to reward your pet when finished.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

As per law, if your Professional Pet Care Specialist is taking your pets off of your property for play time or walks, all pets must have up-to-date tags. Please make sure that your Professional Pet Care Specialist has the current tags for your pet.

Featured Pet of the Month

Dexter (Dextress)



Dexter is a spirited and sassy young girl who knows what she wants and knows how to get it. Yes, Dexter is a girl. Dexter was once part of a feral tag and release program but you would never know it! She decided she wanted a home of her own and walked right in to one! Unfortunately, the home she chose couldn't keep her, so they reached out to Comfort at Home Pet Services for help in finding this

gorgeous girl the home she so desperately wants. Jen contacted a few rescues and found Pittsburgh Purrfect Cat Rescue who was willing to help Dexter in her quest for a forever home.

Dexter is approximately 2 or 3 years old, is spayed and up to date on vaccinations. She is very friendly and playful and walked right into the carrier when Jen came to help her. She really wants that home of her own!

Can you offer Dexter the home she is craving?



Featured Organization of the Month



Pittsburgh Purrfect Cat Rescue

Pittsburgh Purrfect Cat Rescue is working to give every homeless cat and kitten that crosses their path a second chance, as well as working full circle to spay and neuter the feral cat colonies that produce them. After years of volunteering for Animal Friends and working with C.A.R.T, Pittsburgh Purrfect Cat Rescue founders saw the need for a cat based rescue that not only finds homes for animals but addresses the issue at the source.

Pittsburgh Purrfect Cat Rescue is a volunteer run, foster based rescue. Foster based rescues set the cats and kittens up for the best chance at success by getting them used to being in a home, around people, and possibly children and other animals. In addition, it allows the foster parent a chance to get to know the personality and needs of the particular cat or kitten. Pittsburgh Purrfect Cat Rescue is always looking for new potential fosters. If you would like to help a cat or kitten with the best possible start in life, [please fill out their foster application.](#)

Comfort at Home Pet Services would like to personally thank Pittsburgh Purrfect Cat Rescue for their willingness to help, quick response time and professionalism. When Dexter - see above - decided to walk right into someone's home, Jen reached out to a few rescues to help and Pittsburgh Purrfect Cat Rescue answered the call! We are so thankful for their help and support helping Dexter

find her forever home!

Pittsburgh Purrfect Rescue is always in need of donations of cat and kitten food, and litter. If you would like to make a donation of food or litter, please let Jen know and she can pick up your donation during your next visit. Jen can be reached at 724-366-1568 or Jen@comforhomepetservices.com.

Monetary donations can be made via their website.

Website - www.pittsburghpurrfectcatrescue.com/

Email - pittsburghpurrfectcatrescue@yahoo.com

Phone - (412) 515-7776

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PittsburghPurrfectCatRescue>

February Birthdays



February Pet Birthdays

Figaro Ball
Flynn Klaut
Kenai Ellis
Lucy Bishop
Figaro Bishop
Sheriff Miller
Thor Boczar
Gunnar Thomas
DBo Leonard
Fluffy Wolfe
Big Ears Wolfe
Rosie Adam
Harley Bonacci
Penny Bonacci

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the
Season

Heart Shaped Cranberry Cookies for Dogs



Ingredients

- 2 Eggs
- 1.5 Cups Almond Flour
- 1 Tablespoon Coconut Oil
- 3-4 Tablespoons Coconut Flour
- 1/2 Cup Dried Cranberries

Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

Beat the eggs and set aside

Combine almond flour, coconut oil, and dried cranberries in a bowl.

Add in the eggs and knead the ingredients with your hands. Dough will be wet and sticky.

Add in the coconut flour one tablespoon at a time to achieve a consistency that is easy to roll out and not overly sticky. This should take approximately 3-4 TBSP.

Roll out the dough and cut out the treats using heart shaped cookie cutters.

Place the treats on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.

Bake for 15-18 minutes or until crisp.

Catnip Heart Cookies



Ingredients

- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup of whole wheat flour
- 2 tablespoons of wheat germ
- 2-4 tablespoons of catnip
- 1/3 cup of milk
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon of molasses
- 1 egg

Directions

Begin by preheating the oven to 350 degrees.

Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl (flour, wheat germ and catnip).

Combine the wet ingredients in a bowl (egg, milk, vegetable oil and molasses).

Mix the wet and dry ingredients together and work it into a dough

Remove a portion of dough and use a rolling pin to flatten the dough to a thickness between 1/8 of an inch and 1/4 of an inch.

Cut the dough into hearts using a cookie cutter or a knife.

Place the cookies on a lightly greased cookie sheet.

Bake the cookies for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the cookies are crisp and lightly browned.



Comfort at Home Pet Services has been featuring many different types of contests on our social media pages! Our contests are fun and educational! Make sure you are following us on all our social media pages for your chance to enter to win fun prizes like a copy of our cookbook or e-gift cards!

You can't win if you don't play! So join the fun!

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Please email suggestions

to Jen@comforhomepetservices.com

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