

Puppy Love

April 2013

Newsletter of *Belle Amore Dachshunds*

Volume 3, No.4



Thirty Seconds!

The American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS) has determined that 80% of dogs will develop some form of dental disease by the age of three. Their research notes it is the most common health problem treated by veterinarian clinics today.

Often times we overlook dental care for dogs, but they can suffer the same kinds of dental problems as humans; severe pain, infection and tooth loss. Just like humans, dog's teeth are prone to plaque buildup. When plaque combines with saliva and residual food between the teeth and gum, plaque turns into tarter. If plaque and tarter are not removed routinely by your veterinarian, they can cause periodontal disease.

Tooth brushing is the single most important part of oral care for a dog, and it is something you, as a pet parent, can do at home. If tooth brushing is going to be a new experience for your dog you need to expose him to the process gradually. You could begin with letting your little doxie chew on his toothbrush. Put dog toothpaste on your fingers and let him lick it off. Once he is comfortable with this you can rub some toothpaste on his front teeth, next gently try brushing his front teeth. Eventually, with patience you will be able to brush his teeth appropriately.

The good news is a 30 second brushing once a day will provide optimum home health care for your doxie.

SIGNS OF ORAL DISEASE

bad breath	tumors in the gums
excessive drooling	cysts under the tongue
inflamed gums	loose teeth
bleeding gums	discolored teeth
difficulty chewing	pawing at the mouth



Make it an Annual Event

One of the best ways to prevent oral disease is to have your dog's teeth cleaned once a year by your veterinarian. It is time and money well spent. Your doxie may even give you a pain free smile of her newly shined, pearly whites.

"Dogs laugh, but they laugh with their tails." Max Eastman



Lilly at home with her new family in North Carolina.