

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

New Treat Removes Tarter

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

For those who have a hard time brushing their pet's teeth, but still want to do all they can to prevent tartar buildup, there is a simple alternative. Hill's Science Diet has been able to formulate a food for dogs and cats that does a terrific job of keeping tartar under control. It is a prescription diet sold only through Veterinarians called T/D.

I tested this diet on my own pets and I was amazed with the results. I have a 15 year old dog at home and seven cats and all were developing a fair amount of tartar on their back molars and their breath was getting pretty bad. I had done a professional cleaning about 9 months before on the older dog, but over the summer I had done a poor job of keeping everyone's teeth brushed. Although they all eat dry food and other types of dental care treats, they were soon going to be in need of another dental cleaning.

I felt this would be a good test for the T/D diet by Hill's. Since my cats were all healthy and had no serious dental problems, I slowly switched them to the special tartar control diet made just for cats. My older dog is already on a prescription food so I could only replace about 10% of her regular diet with the T/D. I was amazed with the results. Their breath was fresher and their gums were healthier. There has also been a big reduction in their need for dental cleanings.

This diet can be used as a treat or as your pet's regular food. It comes in an adult formula for small dogs, regular dogs and for cats. Whether you feed it exclusively or as a treat it will help reduce tartar to some degree, especially on the back teeth, where it is hard to reach with a brush. If your pet has health problems or serious dental problems, consult your veterinarian first. Although feeding this diet should decrease the amount of tartar buildup on your pet's teeth, this does not mean you will never have to have a professional dental cleaning done. If your pet has broken teeth, periodontal disease or very bad tartar, these problems should be taken care of first, before the diet is started.

Eukanuba also puts a tartar control ingredient in most of their diets, too. Feeding premium foods in general can help decrease tartar buildup.

Now I can feel better about keeping my pets healthy with less effort on my part. Since they all love the taste, I feel like they actually enjoy something that is good for them. You can even put your pet's toothpaste on a few kernels of this food for added cleaning.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at the Animal Hospital of Lanesville at 952-3643. 🐾

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