

# PRAIRIE PAW PRINTS

*Crookston Pet Clinic's Newsletter*



## Welcome!

It has been a very busy year here at the Crookston Pet Clinic. Though we try to post updates on our social media and website but, we thought that It would be a good Idea to continue to work on our newsletters. Rather than monthly, we have decided to update with the seasons- so just go ahead and read through our winter edition of Prairie Paw Prints!

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# What's New in our Clinic

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A lot of you may know we have a new app! Switching to 'Vitus Vet' has been quite the change, but we feel it is a good one! One of our favorite features with Vitus Vet is that you all have access to your pet's vaccines anywhere you go! If you need any assistance viewing these records, please feel free to reach out. The ability to 'share' vaccines with someone is another reason we elected Vitus Vet- you are able to share the vaccines with groomers, boarding facilities and anyone you feel needs to know that your pet is vaccinated. Simply open the Vitus Vet app, selected 'Invite Family and Pet Sitters' and enter their email address! Again, if you have any issues or questions with the app please let us know and we will be able to help!

We have also added a company called 'Tera Recycle'. This company allows us easy access to recycle Royal Canin food bags! If you have an empty bag feel free to drop it off with us and we will take care of it, the green way!

Our clinic also has a new policy. Since the pandemic, clinics all over have been overwhelmed with the amount of patients. That being said, schedules fill up fast. In May 2023, we put a new policy in place, this policy has been posted on our website and you may have received notice about it. The policy we put in place is that if you are a first time client, you will be required to pay a *deposit fee*. The deposit fee covers the cost of the exam, and will be held on your account until your appointment. For an exam the deposit fee is \$50.00, the deposit for a surgery is \$100- these prices are listed on our website as well. If the appointment is a 'no call, no show'- that money does not get refunded. We understand that things pop up, but we ask that you let us know if you are unable to make your appointment. For more information regarding this policy, please visit our website.



# Mystery Dog Illness

Article by *Korin Miller* for Prevention.com

A mystery dog illness continues to spread throughout the country, leaving a growing number of dog owners concerned. The illness, which does not currently have a name, is raising a lot of questions among veterinarian agencies, with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) noting that its cause “remains a mystery,” despite hundreds of dogs contracting it. Though it does not have an official name, there are a number of symptoms to be aware of, (like respiratory distress) and ways to prevent serious illness in your pup.

According to reports, the illness doesn't respond well to usual treatments, making it more concerning. “We're letting people know that it's something to be on the lookout for.” says Brian Collins, DVM.

So, what is the mystery dog illness and how can you protect your dog? Here's what we know right now.

## What are the symptoms?

- Chronic cough
- Fever
- Discharge from eye and/ or nose
- Chronic pneumonia that doesn't respond to antibiotics.
- Acute pneumonia that quickly becomes severe and may lead to “poor outcomes” in as little as 24 to 36 hours.



The illness is “resistant to standard treatments” and doesn't cause a positive test for common respiratory illness in dogs, according to the ***New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory***.

## How does the mystery dog illness spread?

It's not entirely known how the mystery dog illness spreads. "We don't know what the cause is but we're thinking about it the way we do other forms of canine respiratory disease." Brian Collins, DVM says. "Those are all spread dog to dog"

That can include dogs licking each other, and coughing and sneezing on each other. Inanimate objects like a shared water or food bowl may spread the illness too. Even humans may spread the illness by petting an infected dog and then another canine, Collins says.



### How can I prevent my dog from getting sick?

The OVMA recommends doing the following to protect your dog from respiratory illness in general - Reduce your dog's contact with large numbers of dogs you don't know. Try to keep your dog away from dogs that look sick ( i.e. they have a cough, runny nose, and runny eyes) Avoid communal water bowls. Make sure your dog is up to date on vaccinations, including canine influenza, Bordetella and parainfluenza. " Avoid doggy daycare, boarding, - if possible - and dog parks." says Victoria Hopson, DVM, an associate veterinarian at The Vets of Raleigh.

## Where has the mystery illness been spotted?

Cases were first detected in Oregon, which has had more than 200 case reports, the AVMA says. However, other potential cases have been reported in California, Colorado, Georgia and Florida among other places.

But Collins notes that it's difficult to say if these are the same illness or different conditions. "Since we don't really know what the cause of this is, we can't necessarily say that all of the outbreaks around the country are from the same organism," He says.

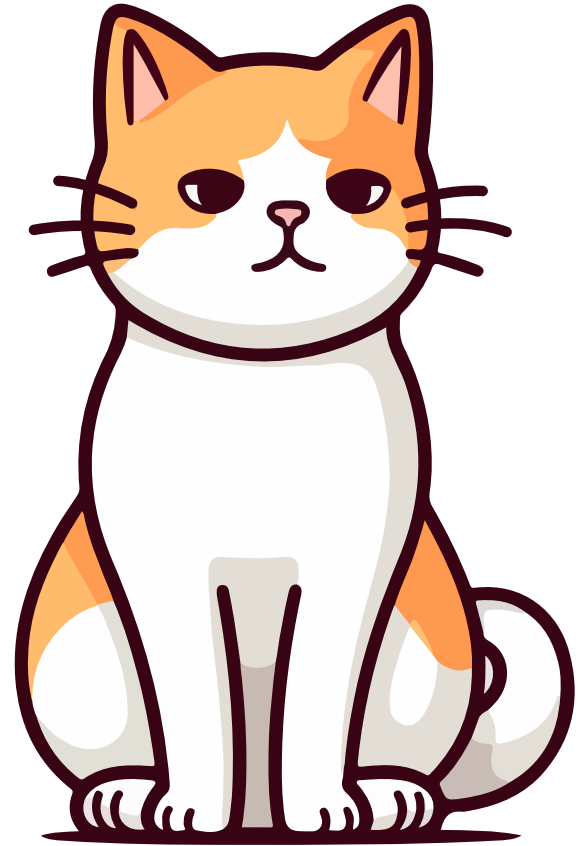
# How to Brush a Cat's Teeth: Steps and Tips

*Written by Katie Koschalk, reviewed by Catherine Barnette, DVM.  
For 'Great Pet Care' by Covetrus.*

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## Overview:

- Oral hygiene can help prevent the most common forms of dental diseases in cats.
- With the proper preparation, most cats will allow you to brush their teeth without much fuss.
- Practice touching your cat's mouth and familiarizing them with the idea of brushing before diving in.
- You'll need a **cat specific toothpaste**.
- Daily brushing is ideal, but a few times a week can also be beneficial.
- Remember to schedule regular checkups for your cat, even if you're meticulous about brushing.



Cats are renowned for their meticulous grooming habits and impeccable cleanliness, but there's one crucial personal care task they simply can't preform on their own : brushing their teeth.

Just as with humans, our feline friends are vulnerable to diseases of the teeth and gums. In fact, studies report that between 50 and 90 percent of cats older than 4 years old experience some form of dental disease. If the thought of sticking a toothbrush into your kitty's fanged mouth sounds like a daunting task, you're not alone. It certainly can be, especially if they aren't used to mouth handling or tooth brushing procedures. The good news? With the right approach, most cats will eventually allow you to brush their chompers without much fuss.

Keep reading to learn how to safely, easily and effectively brush your cat's teeth.

## Benefits of Brushing a Cat's Teeth:

Before we get into how to brush a cat's teeth, let's review why cat teeth cleaning is so important.

“Brushing teeth removes plaque, an invisible, thin layer of bacteria and other material,” says Dr. Patrik Holmboe, head veterinarian at *Cooper Pet Care*. Dr. Holmboe explains that tartar not only looks unsightly, but it's also chock-full of bacteria - and if not removed, it can greatly increase the likelihood of more advanced dental diseases like gingivitis and periodontitis. Once your cat reaches the stage of periodontitis, they face a high risk of bacterial infection in the tooth roots and bone surrounding the teeth, opening the door to loose or lost teeth, gum disease, difficulty eating, pain and infection that spreads everywhere in the body.



Although tartar build-up on your cat's teeth requires removal by a veterinarian under general anesthesia, regular dental cleaning at home can help remove plaque. Removing this plaque before it hardens into tartar is an essential part of home dental care.

Added bonuses of regular brushing include helping your cat get accustomed to being handled and keeping their breath smelling fresh! ( Or at least fresher)

Starting when your cat is young is ideal, but with time and practice you can get your older cats to cooperate too!

Start by getting your cat used to being touched around the mouth. When petting your cat throughout the day, work your way over to their mouth and gently rub your finger around their teeth, gums and jawline. Give them lots of praise during and after. Next, introduce your cat to the sensation of brushing with a tantalizing treat : tuna water. While it doesn't provide any dental benefits, most cats love the taste, which helps create a positive association. Before busting out the toothpaste, Covetrus recommends dipping your finger in tuna water and offering it to your cat. Once you're done, praise your kitty and reward them with a treat.

Then, graduate to warm - up lessons with actual cat toothpaste.

Though tooth brushing does take a lot of practice and patience, oral hygiene benefits your cat greatly.

## Dr. Leah's Notes

This is the season for reflection and rejuvenation. I hope the quiet of winter will bring you peaceful moments.

We who own pets are among the most fortunate. No matter how chaotic the world becomes, we can always count on the love and devotion of our pets.

I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to help you care for your pet in the best way possible. Thank you for including me in this important part of pet ownership. I also want to recognize the important work being done at our local animal humane society. It can be truly overwhelming. We can all help by being responsible with our attention to socialization, good behavior, unwanted reproduction and roaming.

And, we have learned and continue to learn about the dangers of infectious disease. At this uncertain time, the best recommendation is to keep your pets home to keep them safe.

**We will be closed on  
Dec. 25th & Dec. 26th**

**For any other announcements  
please visit our website  
[crookstonpetclinic.com](http://crookstonpetclinic.com)**

**We hope you enjoyed the winter  
edition of Prairie Paw Prints!**

## CLINIC INFO

214 S Main St  
(218)281-4231- call or **text** us!  
**[crookstonpetclinic@gmail.com](mailto:crookstonpetclinic@gmail.com)**

Open 8am-5pm  
Monday -Friday  
12pm-1pm Closed  
daily for lunch.

**Other closure dates will be posted on  
our website and social media pages.**