



Routine dental care throughout a greyhound's life is a vital part of ensuring their health and welfare. Poor dental and oral health are the number one medical issues in greyhounds, and can affect the bones, gum tissues and surrounding structures that hold the teeth in place. It causes pain that can be severe enough to affect a greyhound's racing performance.

Addressing significant dental issues can also lead to significant costs, if a simple clean and scale undertaken by a vet is no longer sufficient.

Signs of good oral health include:

- Lips and jowls equal with no signs of thickening or swelling, and clean skin
- Pink gum and mouth linings with no signs of redness or swelling. Some dogs will show areas of darker spots, which can be normal.
- Moist and glistening surface of the gums
- White teeth with minimal or no tartar accumulation and gum-tooth margins that are not reddened, thickened or inflamed
- No bad breath

Early signs of bad oral health include:

- Tooth discolouration
- Appearance of mild dental tartar or plaque on teeth
- Bad breath
- Mildly red or swollen gums

Developed signs of bad oral health include:

- Tooth wear or crown fractures
- Tartar or plaque build-up
- Rotten teeth
- Gum redness or receding gums
- Sores in mouth
- Blood in mouth
- Drooling excessively

Physical signs might not always be the first warning that something is wrong with your greyhound's oral health. Sometimes, behavioural signs may alert you to problems. These may include:

- A lack of appetite or not wanting to drink
- Reluctance to play with chew toys
- Dropping food from mouth
- Pawing or rubbing regularly at face
- Chattering teeth
- Swelling under the eye

If you see these signs, you should immediately seek veterinary advice.

Prevention is better than cure. There are many ways you can build dental health routines into your greyhound's usual care routine.

It is recommended that, as part of your annual health check and vaccination, you ask your vet to check your greyhound's teeth and undertake any necessary dental treatment or implement any recommended oral health management.

You can also improve your greyhound's oral health through simple measures such as:

- Raw bones to help your greyhound clean its teeth naturally
- Dental chews
- Dry dental kibble (not moistened)
- Chew toys
- Oral rinses, gels and toothbrushing