There is a new product for your pet’s dental health from Merial called Oravet Dental Hygiene Chews that your dogs will love. It has a unique dual-acting mechanism. What does that mean you ask? While your pet is chewing it helps loosen plaque and tartar making it easier to remove it from the teeth. The second property is the active ingredient called Delmopinol which acts as a barrier on the teeth to help protect against the bacteria that leads to plaque and bad breath. No other dental chew has that! It has been proven to reduce bad breath by 53%, plaque by 42%, and calculus (tartar) by 54%. As you may know 80% of dogs have dental disease by the time they are 2 years of age including bad breath or halitosis. This can make you cringe when your best friend is trying to give you kisses or a face wash. This chew is vanilla scented and dogs love it. It is from Merial, the makers of Heartgard and like all of their products has a money back guarantee if you or your pet is not completely satisfied. So why not give your pet a treat every day that he/she will love and that will be healthy and beneficial for less than the price of other leading dental chews?

 Other home dental care products include toothpaste, water additives, dental diets, and sealants which may be used on both dogs and cats. Just like us, our furry friends need their teeth brushed. The gold standard for dental care is daily brushing but brushing at least 2-3 times a week can make a difference. It is important to use pet toothpaste as human toothpaste is toxic if swallowed due to the fluoride content. Human toothpaste also has a foaming agent that pets don’t appreciate.

 Water additives are an easy add on to your pet’s dental care regimen since dogs and cats drink throughout the day. Healthy Mouth water additive helps soften existing plaque making it easier to remove. It is sold in a concentrate that is mixed up into a jug; just fill their water bowl so every time they drink they are rinsing their mouth and reducing the bacteria that causes plaque. It is all natural with ingredients such as organic pomegranate, blueberry, and clove.

 Dogs and cats need to eat too; if you have a lab or beagle you know mealtime is the highlight of their life. Dental diets are made differently from regular kibble. A normal kibble will crumble when pressure is applied however dental diets are created by interwoven fibers which scrape plaque off teeth mechanically before the kibble breaks in half. Some have a special shape that produces a gentle abrasive effect on teeth as it is chewed.

 Oravet sealant gels (different from the chews) also help prevent plaque formation. The sealant is applied to the teeth with a cotton tipped applicator once a week. It works as a barrier to decrease plaque accumulation.

 Without proper preventative and therapeutic care plaque and tartar lead to periodontal disease which then affects internal organs such as the heart, liver, and kidneys. Performing regular home oral care can make the difference between your pet having an affordable professional dental cleaning and needing multiple extractions. Our staff is available to help you choose the best at home regimen for your pet to live a longer, happier, more comfortable life. After all, who doesn’t want kisses from their best friend!