

How often is a dental needed

As for the frequency of a professional dental cleaning at the vet office it depends on the dog. We see most dogs from puppy mills needing dentals as young as 2 years of age. We have seen some 7 year old with great teeth. Many pooches show signs of gum disease by the time they're four years old because they aren't provided with proper mouth care—and bad breath is often the first sign of a problem.

We have experienced dogs that need a dental every 6 months to every couple of years. The key is to have the teeth looked at by your vet during their annual visit. When I say looked at that means not just the front teeth but also the back molars. Follow through when a dental is recommended. Remember that for humans the rule of them is a cleaning every six months.

Dogs that do not like to chew on bones and/or eat canned food or table food tend to need dentals early in life and more frequent. We encourage dogs to only be feed dry dog food, given milk bones and chew bones (avoid giving your dog objects to chew that are harder than her teeth. High-impact rubber balls and rawhide chew toys are less likely to split or break teeth than knuckle bones.)