

**Ask Dr. OES**

**Introducing a New Column from the Health and Research Committee (HRC)**

Each issue of the OET will have this new Question and Answer section.

Anything you ever wanted to know about the health of your Old English Sheepdog will be answered here by knowledgeable individuals providing current and accurate information.

Questions can be emailed to **oeshealth@gmail.com**.

Your questions will be published anonymously. Ask anything; the HRC will answer!

**Dear Dr. OES,**

**The vet told me I should have my teeth brushed daily. She gave me a special blue toothbrush and yummy toothpaste, just for me!**

**Vanilla Mint Toothpaste is very tasty and made especially for dogs! But, every time my teeth are brushed, I sneeze so hard the toothbrush flies clear across the room!**

**What is going on? I love having clean teeth but the sneezing…not so much.**

**ACHOO! in Dogtooth, North Dakota**

Bless you, ACHOO!,

How wonderful that you are having your teeth brushed! Your vet is right; oral hygiene is very important. Did you know it takes only 2 days to build up plaque? So, daily brushing is the way to go!

I believe you are sneezing from the toothpaste flavor. I’m sure Vanilla Mint is indeed tasty, but some dogs (and people) sneeze when they smell mint. You may want to try a different flavor of toothpaste.

Although there are many oral care items marketed specifically for dogs, a soft human toothbrush with dog toothpaste or no toothpaste can be used.

Using an enzymatic toothpaste is better, but even brushing without any will help remove the plaque. Many dogs enjoy the taste of the Canine Toothpaste and can make brushing teeth more pleasurable for them.

****Aim for 20 seconds of gentle brushing of each area.

Keep on brushing!

Dr. OES

**Dear Dr. OES,**

**I can’t believe this happened to me! I was minding my own business sniffing around in some bushes. Out of nowhere, a weird-looking cat turned his booty to me and shot me with some horrible stinky stink like I have never smelled!**

**I have been washed in tomato juice FOUR TIMES! I hate tomatoes now and could be turning a most objectionable shade of pink. I’M A BOY!!**

**None of my people will get near me and I’ve heard tale of them building me a special house, OUTSIDE!**

**Please help! What can I do to smell like my sweet self again?**

**Odoriferous in Soap Lake, WA**

Poor Odoriferous,

That was no cat! It was a skunk and their spray has the same chemical (thiols) that is found in rotting carcasses! No wonder you smell horrific! Let’s see what we can do to get you smelling better.

Better than using tomato juice, let’s use science!

Mix the following solution in an open bowl:

* 4 cups hydrogen peroxide 3%
* 1/4 cup baking soda
* 1 teaspoon Dawn dish detergent

Wet hair, work solution in, and let sit 10 minutes.

Rinse well and wash with Dawn or your regular shampoo.

The hydrogen peroxide and baking soda produce oxygen which bonds with and neutralizes the thiols. The Dawn breaks down the oils to enable the mixture to penetrate.

Stay away from strange looking cats!

Dr. OES