

From: Fur Fitness  
Contact: Melissa Morrison  
Address: PO Box 1581, Rialto, CA 92377  
Phone: (909) 874-6078  
Email: [info@furfitness.net](mailto:info@furfitness.net)

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Does Your Pet Have Bad Breath?**

**Rialto, CA, February 15, 2010**-- Many people joke about their pet's bad breath. While you may attribute this smell to simply being a dog, in reality bad breath could signal a critical oral health issue called periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is a bacterial infection that attacks the gums and supportive tissue which holds your pet's teeth in place. The disease is extremely painful and causes bad breath, bleeding gums and lack of appetite. If left untreated the infection can spread to the bloodstream, damaging the kidneys, heart and liver. According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats over 3 years of age show signs of periodontal disease.

Although this disease is common, it is also extremely preventable. By taking a few precautionary measures you can dramatically reduce the risk of your pet suffering from this devastating condition. Since February is Pet Dental Month, now is the perfect time to create new habits that will preserve your pet's health. Taking care of your pet's teeth and gums does not have to be expensive or time-consuming. In fact, it's downright easy. Melissa Morrison, owner of FurFitness, a Rialto-based pet sitting and fitness service, offers 2 simple tips for keeping your pet's teeth in excellent shape.

1. **Brush your pet's teeth daily.** "After eating a meal, food particles cling to the teeth and form plaque," Morrison said. "If not removed the plaque will harden and turn to tartar within 36 hours." Keeping your pet's teeth clean is the single most important thing you can do to prevent oral diseases. Sound too hard? It doesn't have to be. Brushing your pet's teeth literally takes 30-60 seconds. Use a soft-bristled brush and doggy toothpaste (never use human toothpaste). Allow your dog to sniff the toothpaste, then gently scrub both sides of his mouth. Afterwards, reward your pet with a treat.
2. **Provide healthy treats that help clean teeth.** One inexpensive way to keep your pet's teeth clean is to provide him with healthy treats, such as fruit and vegetables. Carrots and

apples are great choices. Not only will these treats help eliminate plaque and tarter build-up, they also offer a number of other health benefits. Since fruits and veggies are low in calories, they will keep your pet trim and help him lose unwanted pounds. Throw a little daily exercise in the package and your pet will glow with health. Together you and your pet can celebrate healthy teeth, healthy weight and a healthy life!

###

FurFitness is a pet sitting & fitness service that is committed to increasing the health and longevity of pets through proper exercise. They offer specialized fitness programs for dogs, cats, rabbits and reptiles. Other services include out-of-town care, overnight care, dog walking, pet taxi and dog training. Fur Fitness currently serves the Inland Empire area of Southern California. Cities include: Colton, Corona, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Miraloma, Norco, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, Riverside and San Bernardino. For more information visit [www.furfitness.net](http://www.furfitness.net)