

DEALING WITH DENTAL PLAQUE

MRS ADAMS writes from Tipton to thank all the kind people who, via *Living with Dogs*, replied to her request for help with her two Smooth Dachshunds with bladder stones.

As both Katie and Teddi's stones were of the struvite variety, she is currently opting for the vitamin C treatment combined with a diet of white meat and biscuit meal. She promises to let me know how they progress as, she adds, it is early days yet.

I have received two comments about the Forever Living Tooth Gel, the first from Rob Sansom of the Byermoor Cavaliers in Northumberland. He says that he has been cleaning his seven-year-old bitch Millie's teeth with the tooth gel twice a day and the difference within four days is quite amazing. The plaque is actually dropping off!

No frothing

He says that although she still has all her teeth, she has had tartar on them for the last two years with the plaque building up extremely fast. Rob is delighted with the results, adding that it is also good for our own teeth and there is no frothing.

The second comment came in a letter from Beryl Kay of Bury St Edmunds. She says she has always cleaned her dogs' teeth with a brush and has used Logic ever since it came on the market,



JANE LILLEY

However, she found that over time a certain amount of plaque builds up on the carnassial tooth at the top and the last two molars.

She decided to give the Forever Bright a try and sent off for a tube. She has used this daily for over a week and found that, although she cannot claim that the plaque chipped off and crumbled, she found it much easier to scrape off with a dental tool.

However, her dogs do not like her using the product and she is sure this is due to both the foaming action and taste. She has therefore decided to return to Logic for regular use and apply the Forever Bright when this appears necessary. I find her comment that this gel foams interesting as Rob says specifically that it does not froth. As frothing and foaming are synonymous in my Thesaurus, perhaps the water in Bury St Edmunds is softer than in Northumberland?

Mrs Kay adds a paragraph about swimmers. She had two in a litter of Wire Fox Terriers, both male. Her vet

described the condition as "sailor's legs" when he saw them at two days old and suggested she run them on until the time when they would normally be up and about. This she did and, although the puppies were plump and sleek, they propelled themselves by their front legs as they were unable to rise on their hind legs.

Mrs Kay says that, as she feels strongly that she should not be rearing puppies with known defects, she agreed with her vet's advice and, although it was very distressing at the time, had them destroyed. She adds that to avoid a recurrence she had their dam spayed.

Change of diet

Ted Whitworth has a very different approach to the problem. He has a young Sheltie bitch who, at three weeks of age, was diagnosed as a swimmer. His vets said there was nothing whatsoever wrong with her bone structure.

Betty Bloomfield advised a change of diet to a more highly concentrated food at the same time as using a sponge pad underneath the tummy for support wrapped on with a loose bandage. Ted says that within a week the little bitch was up on her legs normally and now, he says proudly, has not only a particularly good front and rear but

moves like a dream!

Mrs Sloper with Cocker in the Isle of Wight rang and wrote about swimmers, which she has never yet failed to cure completely. The following is her recipe for success: once the condition is noticed in a litter, she advocates giving all the puppies whether affected or not Ephynal twice daily and large doses of Collo Cal D. Particularly if the puppies are very heavy in weight, as soon as they can cope with solid food try to keep the bitch off them as much as possible and feed them raw minced beef and give them water to drink.

A hand should be placed on the shoulders of the puppies, applying pressure to bring the front legs into correct position. This should be held for three 20-minute sessions per day. Puppies should be laid on a lap and their legs worked like riding a bicycle. Mrs Sloper emphasises that this should be done constantly.

She advises a calcium injection from the vet, just for safety, when they are ready to go to their new homes, adding that Ephynal should be given until they are about four or five months of age.

Should their dam be mated again, she advises Ephynal every day from the time she comes into season until the puppies are weaned to prevent the condition occurring again.

My address is Pollards, Furzen Lane, Rudgwick, Horsham RH12 3AR, phone 01403 822222 (before 7pm). ■