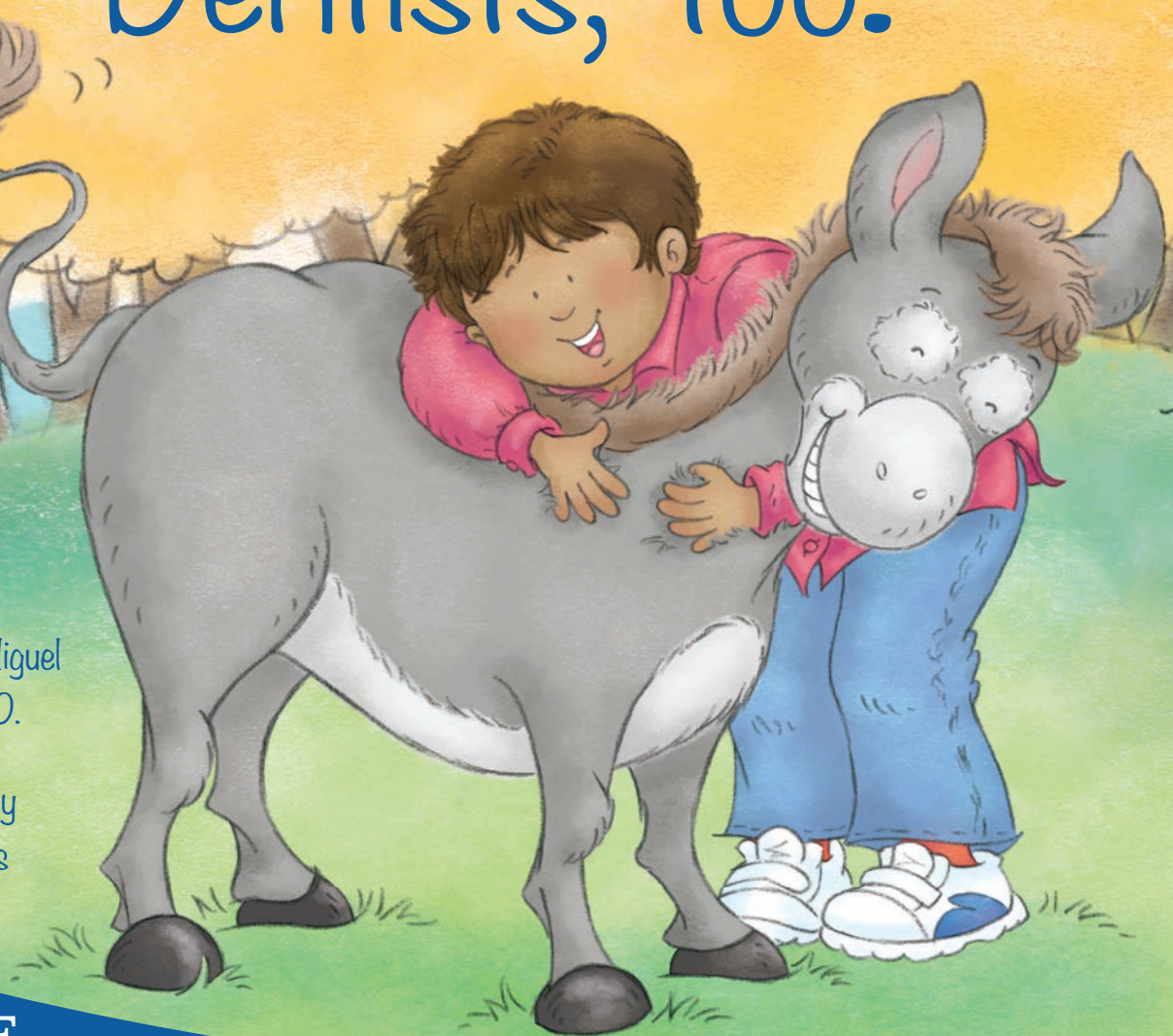


Donkeys Need Dentists, Too!

Written by
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Illustrated by
CA Nobens





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Summary

Dentists and veterinarians make sure people and their animals have healthy teeth.

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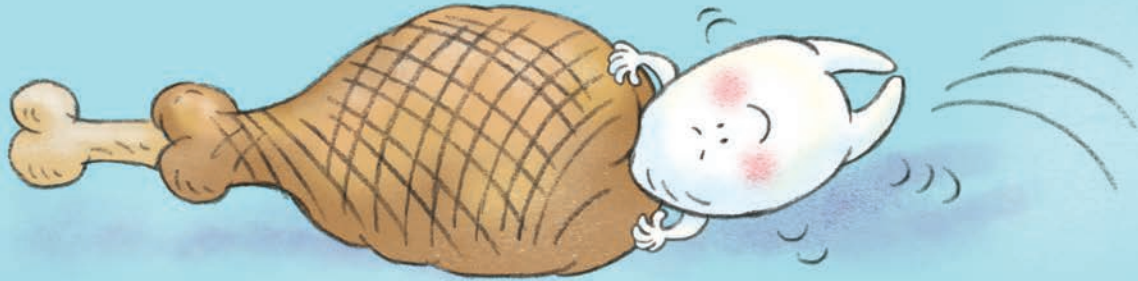
Fun Teeth Facts

There are all different kinds of teeth:

Incisors are teeth in the front of the mouth used to grab food or cut it into smaller pieces.

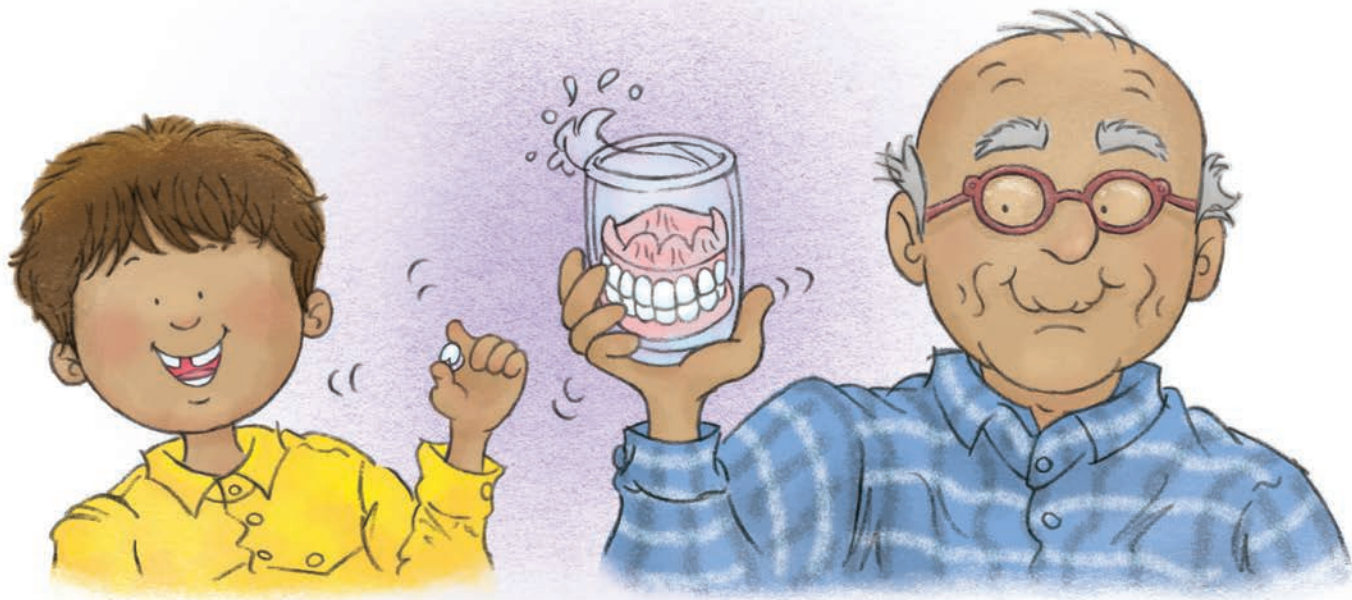


Canines are sharp pointy teeth used to grab and tear food.

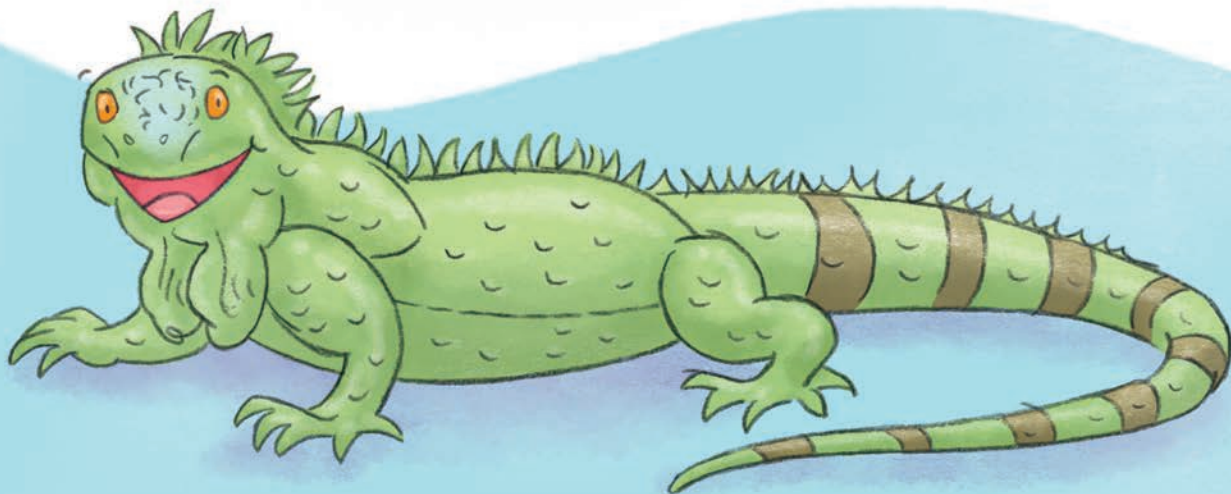


Premolars and Molars are teeth used to grab, grind, tear, or crush food.

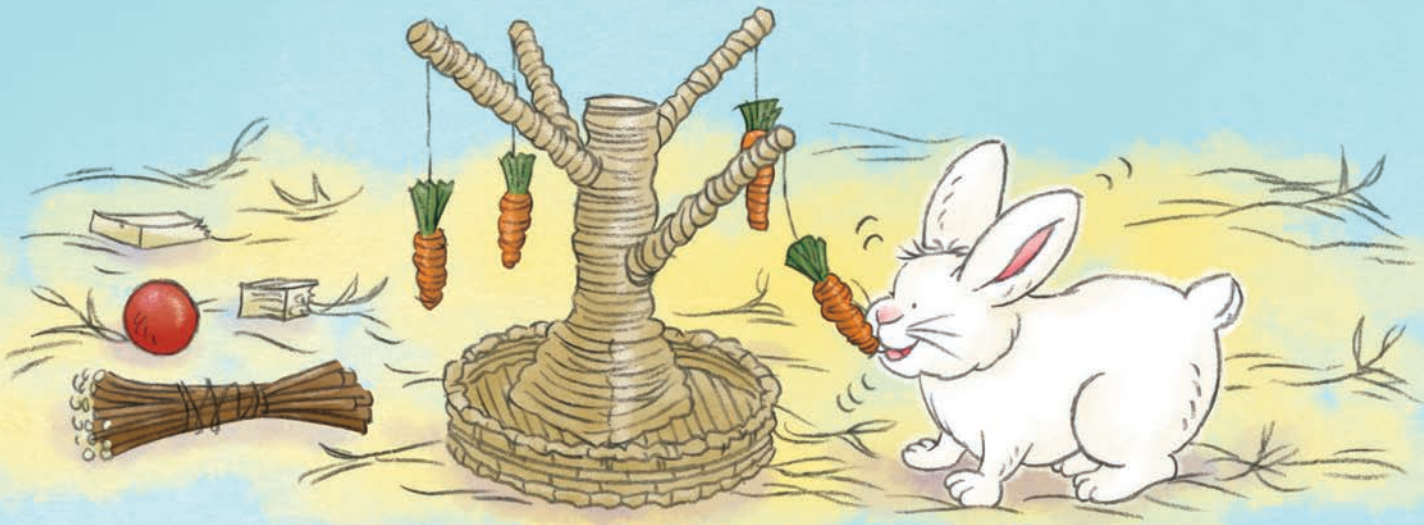




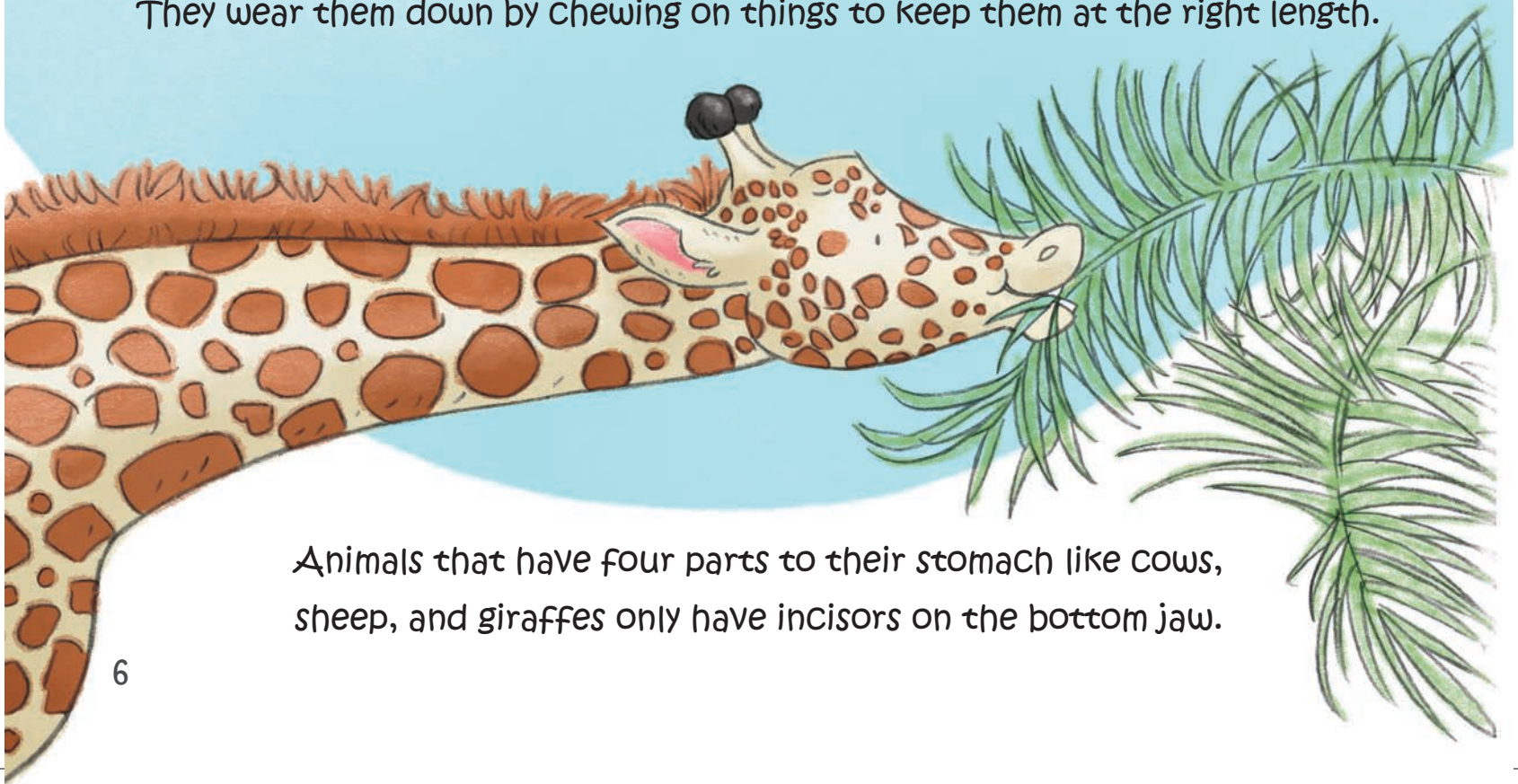
Dogs, cats, and people have baby teeth that are replaced by adult teeth.
If an adult tooth falls out, a new tooth does not replace it.



Some lizards shed their teeth every once in a while, just like they shed their skin. The shed teeth are replaced by brand new teeth.



Rabbits have incisor and molar teeth that are always growing longer. They wear them down by chewing on things to keep them at the right length.



Animals that have four parts to their stomach like cows, sheep, and giraffes only have incisors on the bottom jaw.

What can you learn from teeth?

You can learn a lot about an animal just by looking at its teeth. Teeth can tell you what an animal eats. Animals with sharp, pointy teeth, like tigers, eat meat.

Meat-eaters are called
Carnivores.



Animals with flat teeth, like donkeys, eat plants. Plant-eaters are called herbivores.

Animals with both pointy and flat teeth, like people, can eat both meat and plants. Animals that eat both meat and plants are called omnivores.



Teeth can help you guess the age of an animal or person. In people, you can see baby teeth at around 6 months of age. Adult teeth can be seen at about 6 years old. Different types of adult teeth come in at different times.



When Teeth are Seen

	People	Dogs	Cows
Baby Teeth	6 months old	3 - 5 weeks old	when calves are born
Adult Incisors	6 - 9 years old	4 - 5 months old	1 1/2 - 3 years old
Adult Canines	9 - 12 years old	6 - 10 months old	3 1/2 - 4 years old
Adult Premolars	10 - 13 years old	4 - 6 months old	2 - 3 years old
Adult Molars	6 - 21 years old	4 - 7 months old	5 months - 2 1/2 years old

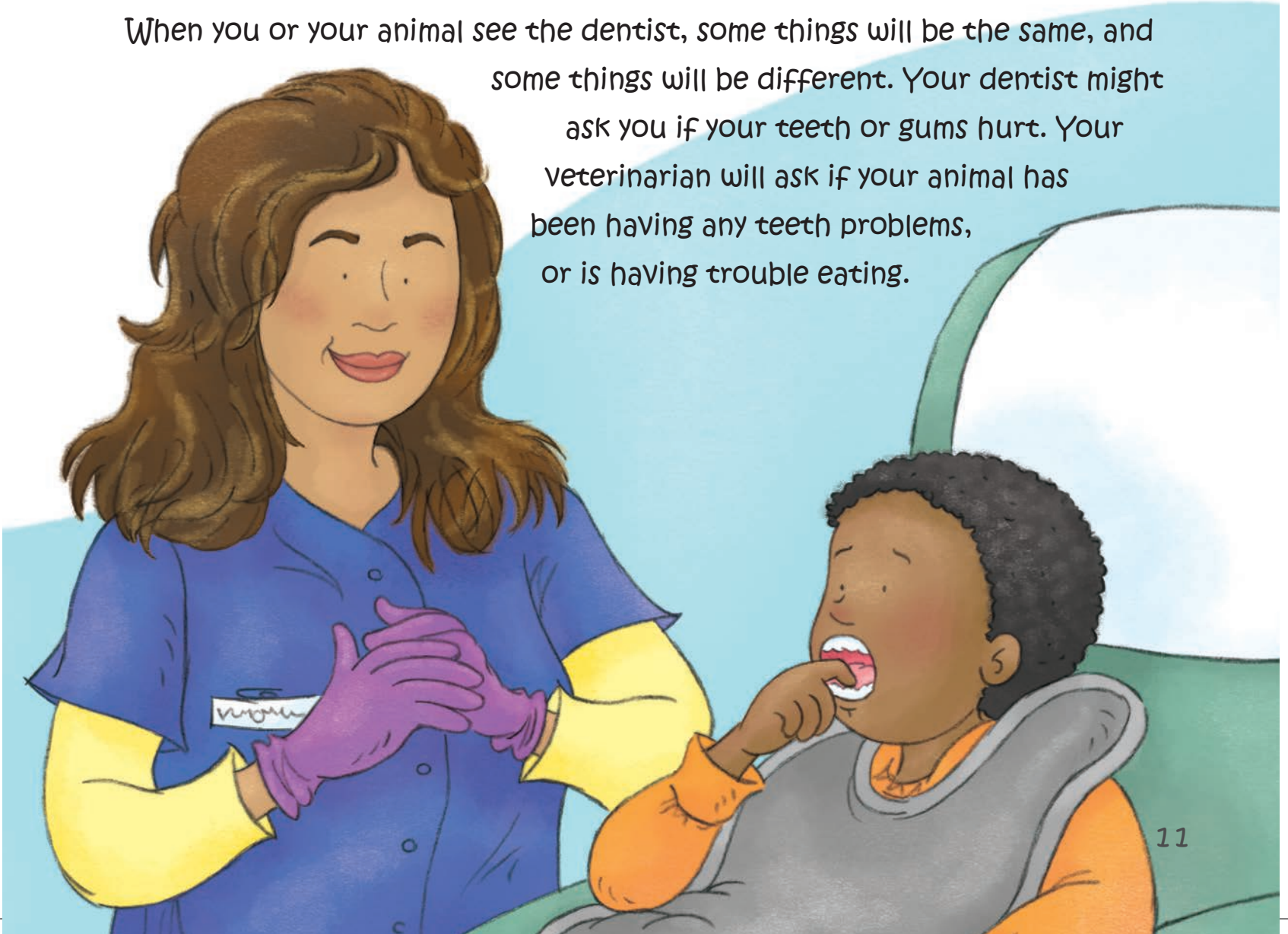
Why do people and animals see dentists?

People go to the dentist to keep their teeth and mouth healthy. The dentist and dental hygienist will clean and check your teeth. The dentist will look for germs that collect on teeth (plaque), red or swollen gums (gingivitis), and holes in the teeth (cavities). Dentists can also repair teeth that have been chipped or broken after an accident. Animals see veterinarians to have their teeth checked for the same reasons. Veterinary technologists assist the veterinarian.



What happens during a dental exam?

When you or your animal see the dentist, some things will be the same, and some things will be different. Your dentist might ask you if your teeth or gums hurt. Your veterinarian will ask if your animal has been having any teeth problems, or is having trouble eating.





You will be awake during your visit to the dentist. Your dentist will ask you to open your mouth wide. Your dentist will look in your mouth and check to be sure your teeth, gums, and tongue are healthy.



Your veterinarian will look in your animal's mouth to make sure everything is okay. Animals are given medicine to make them sleepy so the veterinarian can do a good examination without accidentally getting bitten.

Instruments are tools that the doctor uses to examine teeth. Veterinarians and people dentists use many of the same instruments.

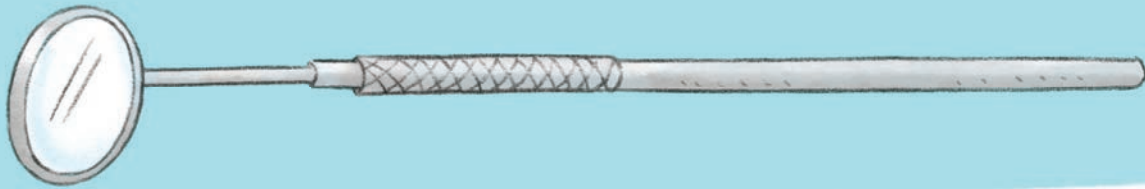
The **Probe** is used to examine the gums around the tooth and to see if the tooth is loose.



The **Explorer** is used to see if there are soft areas or cracks in the tooth.



The **Mirror** is used to explore hard-to-see places inside the mouth.

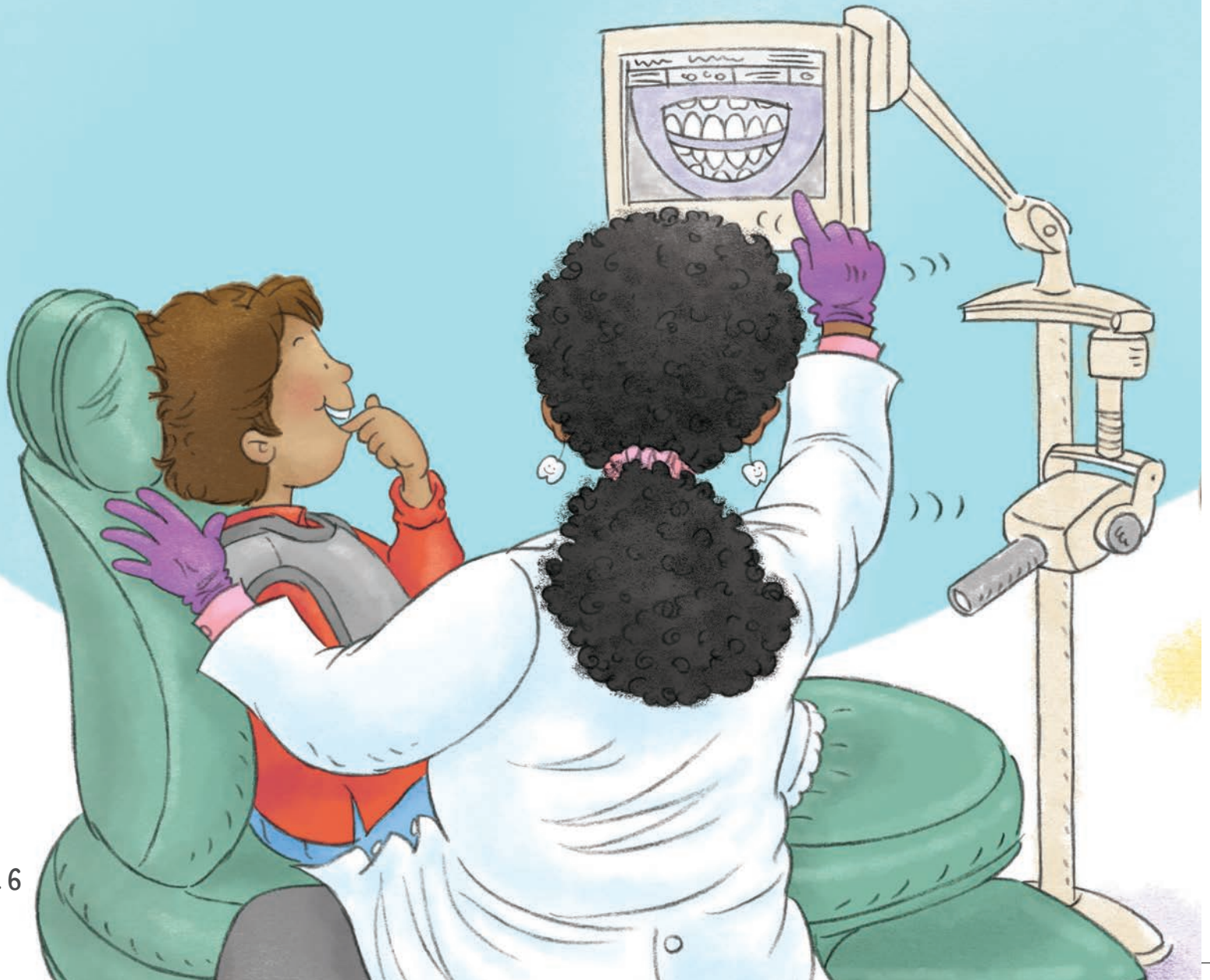


The **Scaler** is used to clean things stuck to the surface of the tooth.



Other instruments are used to polish, remove, and fix teeth.

Parts of your teeth are hidden inside your gums so the dentist can't see them. Your dentist will use an X-ray machine to take a special picture so they can make sure these parts are healthy. Veterinarians also use X-ray machines to take pictures of your animal's teeth.





Your dentist and dental hygienist will clean and polish your teeth. Your veterinarian and veterinary technician will take care of your animal's teeth.

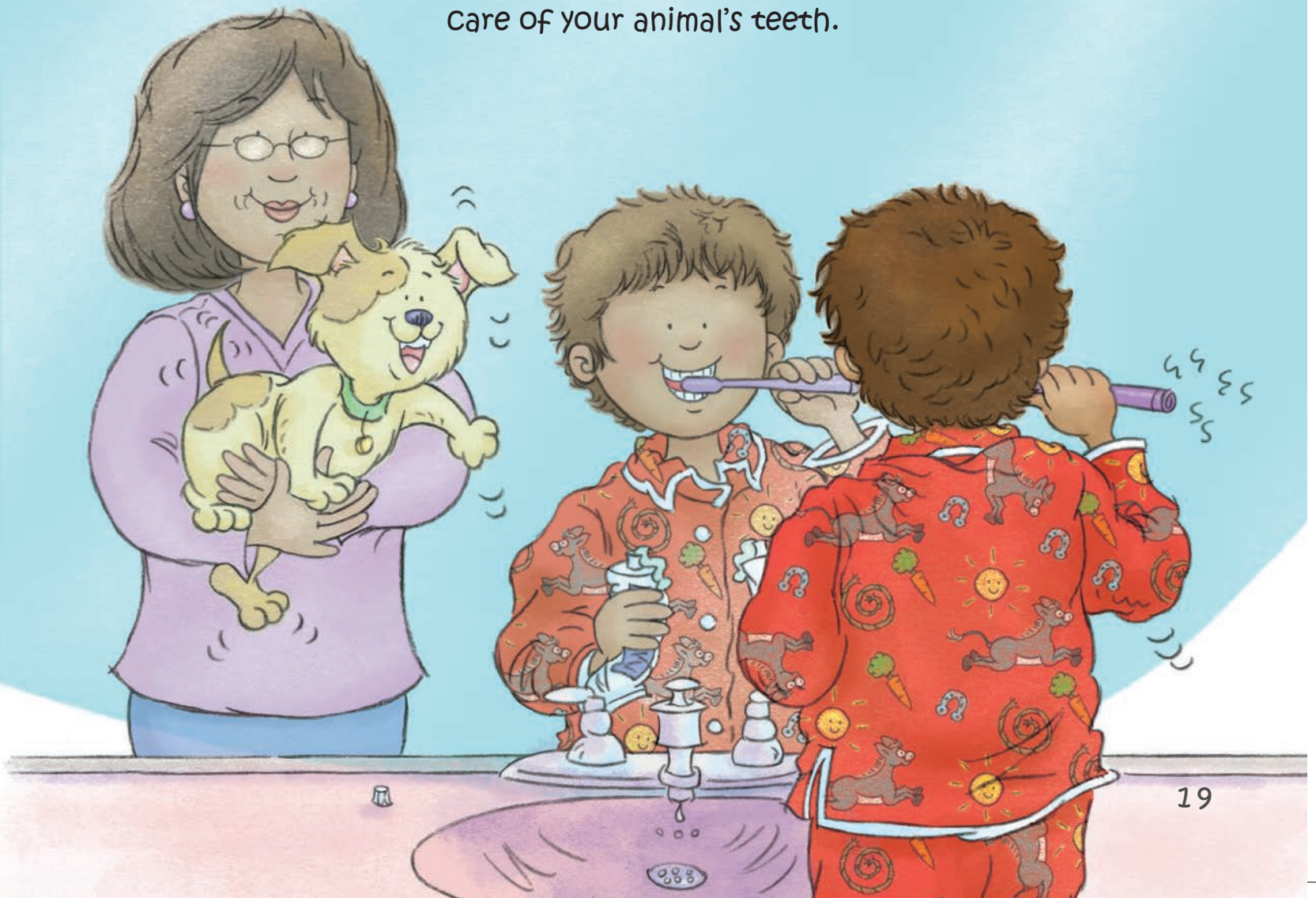
Your dentist will fix problems with your teeth. Your dentist might repair a broken tooth, fix a cavity, or pull out a bad tooth that won't come out by itself. Your veterinarian will fix the same problems with your animal's teeth.

Your veterinarian will also help animals with different problems. They might have to trim a rabbit's teeth if they grow too long.



Taking Care of Teeth

You can take good care of your teeth by keeping them clean, protecting them, and eating healthy. Your dentist will show you how to take good care of your teeth. Your veterinarian will show you how to take good care of your animal's teeth.



You can care for your teeth by brushing them twice a day, flossing, wearing a mouthguard if you play sports like football, and by not eating too much sticky or chewy candy.



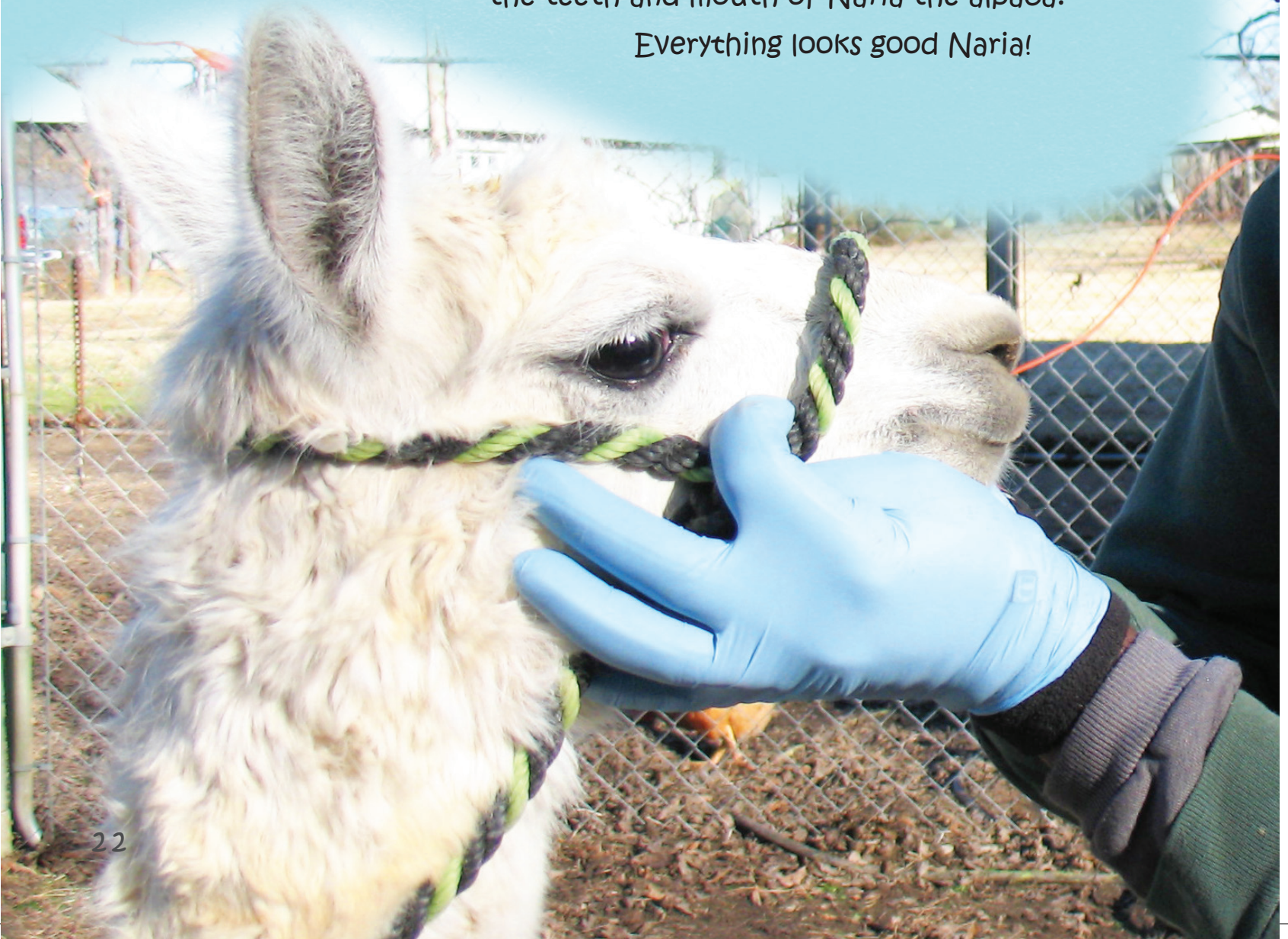
You can brush your animal's teeth to keep them clean. It is very important that you use special toothpaste. Toothpaste made for people can be poisonous for animals like dogs and cats. Some pets like their teeth brushed and some do not. Always ask an adult before you brush your pet's teeth, so they can help you.



Did you know . . . ?

Alpacas need dentists, too! Veterinarian, Dr. Allen Cannedy, is examining the teeth and mouth of Naria the alpaca.

Everything looks good Naria!





Word Bank

canine teeth

carnivore

cavity

dentist

dental float

dental hygienist

explorer

gingivitis

herbivore

incisors

mirror

molars

omnivore

plaque

premolars

probe

scaler

veterinarian

