Periodontal disease including tartar and gingivitis is seen increasingly commonly in bearded dragons and other lizards with similar dentition (chameleons, Chinese water dragons, uromastyx, other agamids). The exact cause of periodontal disease is not entirely clear, but there is suspicion that there is a genetic and/or dietary component. Perhaps captive lizards are being fed more soft foods than their wild counterparts allowing tartar to build up easier. In the wild they eat more hard bodied insects and a variety of coarse vegetation.

**How do you brush the teeth?**

A q-tip soaked in dilute chlorhexidine solution or dilute povidone-iodine solution should be swabbed along the teeth/gums on both sides trying to get top and bottom jaws. Gently peel the lip down while the mouth is closed to see the teeth and sneak the q-tip in for brushing.