

Canine Dental Conditions

Attrition (Worn Teeth)



Can lead to exposure of the pulp, which will cause pain and require extraction of the tooth. Commonly seen in dogs that chew tennis balls or animals with malocclusion causing the teeth to rub together. DVM must assess.



The black dots indicate pulp exposure.



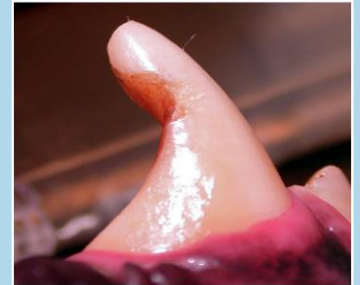
No visible black dots, rather smooth brown surfaces which denotes a reparative process.

Furcation Exposure



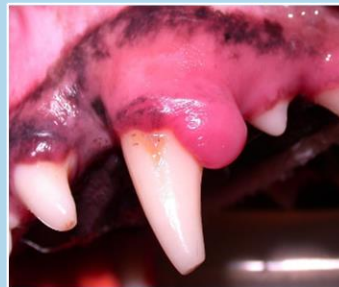
Exposure of the area between the tooth roots of multi-rooted teeth. Occurs due to bone loss caused by periodontitis. If a hole is present between the roots of the tooth, it must be extracted.

Cage Biting Syndrome

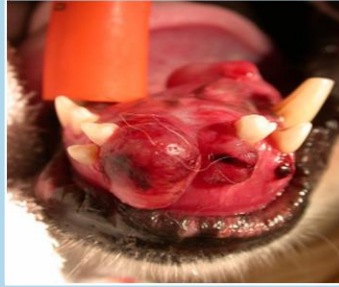


This is caused by a dog biting or chewing the cage bars. DVM must assess.

Canine Oral Masses



Cannot be diagnosed visually, DVM must assess. May be benign or malignant. May cause trauma, infection and/or pain.



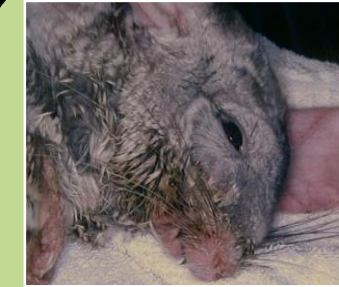
CANINE

Spurs



Spurs are sharp irregular shapes, they will cut the cheek and tongue. Animals may drop food, drool, lose weight, and have decreased appetite/ grooming. Problems with the front teeth may mean more serious problems with the back teeth. If treatment is pursued it may be lifelong. Refer to Adoptability Guidelines.

Slobbers



Wet neck and forepaws caused from excessive drooling are indicative of oral pain and significant dental disease. Must see DVM ASAP. If treating, needs pain meds and special diet until dental.

Cheek Teeth Elongation



Cheek teeth (back teeth) in rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs usually require sedation and specific tools to examine, elongated incisors are commonly caused by elongated cheek teeth. If treatment is pursued it may be lifelong.

SMALL MAMMALS

Elongation



Needs DVM with experience in smalls to examine. Correction and increase in dietary roughage (hay, grass) is likely. Problems with the front teeth may be a sign of more serious problems with the back teeth. Top two photos are rabbit, bottom two photos are Guinea Pigs.

Missing Teeth



Easy to note, needs DVM assessment.

Deviation

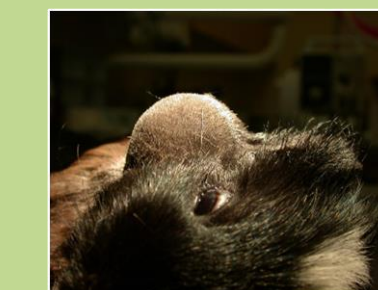


DVM must assess and possibly extract as teeth will continue to grow.

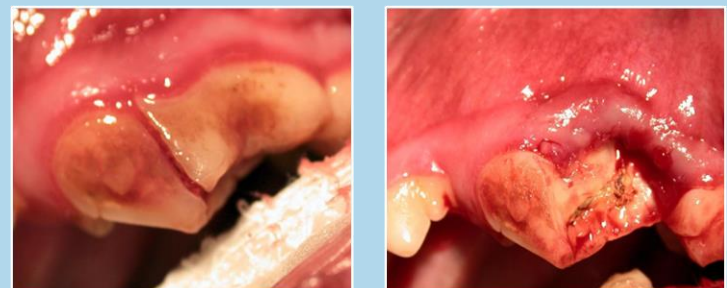
Abscesses



Large area of swelling with a necrotic center or an already ruptured oozing sore. Must see DVM ASAP. Often due to severe underlying dental disease. Top two photos are rabbits, bottom two photos are rodents.



Complicated Slab Fracture



A slice of crown has separated and reveals pulp exposure. Tooth must be treated while in care, will cause pain and infection. Likely requires pain meds and antibiotics.

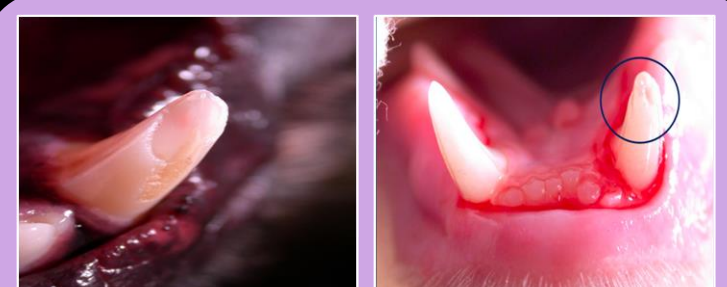
Uncomplicated Slab Fracture



No pulp is exposed. DVM must assess.

Dental Quick Reference

Uncomplicated Fractures



The pulp is not exposed. No treatment is necessary.

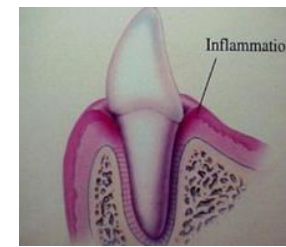
Complicated Fractures



Pulp is exposed. Tooth must be extracted, will cause pain and infection. May require pain meds and antibiotics.

STAGES OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE

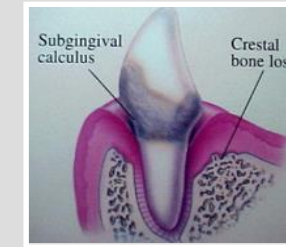
1



Mild gingival inflammation, teeth are clean in appearance. Teeth should be brushed daily and examined by DVM yearly. Dental does not need to be done while in care, okay for adoption with disclosure.



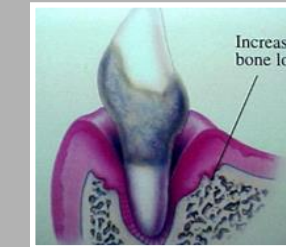
2



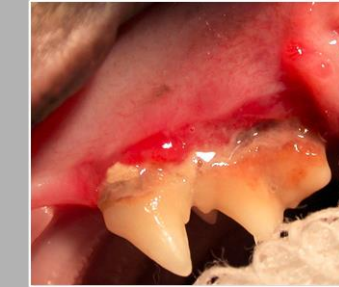
Gingiva is swollen and inflamed. There is no loss of attachment to tooth. Dental cleaning required in the near future. Okay for adoption with disclosure.



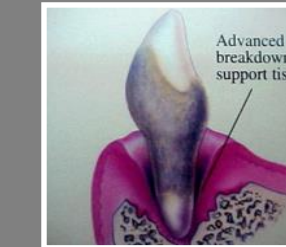
3



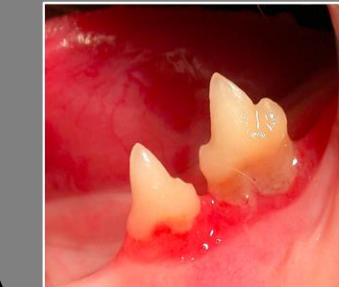
Moderate periodontitis, 25-50% bone loss. Tooth mobility and purulent discharge (pus). Gingiva is very inflamed, loss of tooth attachment. Dental while in care, may require pain meds and antibiotics.



4



Advanced periodontitis, marked bone loss (>50%). Teeth mobile, has been suffering from periodontitis for years. Needs vet exam ASAP. Dental while in care, may require pain meds and antibiotics.

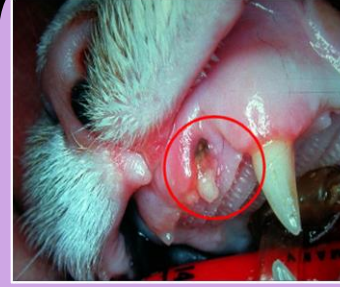


Canine

Feline

Feline Dental Conditions

Root Exposure



Needs vet exam ASAP. Requires dental with extraction of affected tooth or teeth while in care. May need pain medication or antibiotics while awaiting dental.

Stomatitis



Severe oral inflammation due to an autoimmune reaction to plaque on the teeth, very painful. DVM must assess.

Malocclusion

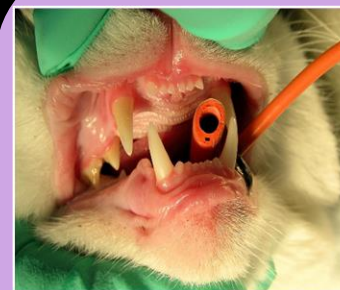
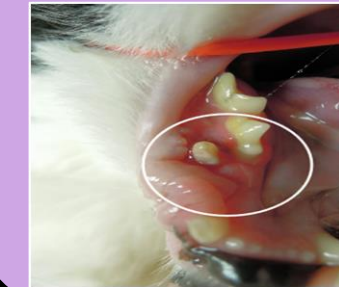


Photo on left shows the lower jaw displaced rostrally (forward) and deviated to the left of the patient due to the luxation of the right temporomandibular joint (TMJ). Requires immediate attention, often seen when an animal has fallen from a high rise. Photo on right shows a replaced TMJ.

Feline Oral Masses



Must see DVM. Most oral masses in cats are malignant. Masses may look more like swelling with a more depressed or ulcerated surface.



FELINE

Stages of Resorptive Lesions

1



Superficial lesion, barely visible, often missed. Must see DVM. Affected teeth must be extracted.

2



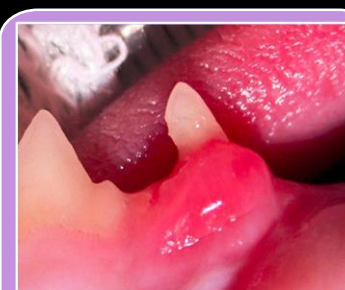
Lesion penetrates into dentin and gingiva covers the defect. Sensitive and painful. Must see DVM. Affected teeth must be extracted.

3



Lesion penetrates to the pulp and the nerve is exposed. Pain is moderate to severe, may require meds. Must see DVM. Affected teeth must be extracted ASAP.

4



Part of crown missing. Pain is moderate to severe, may require meds. Must see DVM. Affected teeth must be extracted ASAP.

5



Crown gone, only remnants of premolar root present (canine tooth still has active lesion in this photo). Gingiva healed over defect, lesion is dormant. No treatment required for premolar.