

Increasingly, dental radiography is becoming the standard of care in veterinary dentistry. The newly revised 2013 AAHA Guidelines also make dental radiographs a part of the dental evaluation for all patients. A recent case is a perfect example of the serious pathology that can be overlooked during a dental procedure without full mouth dental radiographs as standard protocol for all procedures. Below are a photo and dental radiograph of a 5 year old MN Bengal Mix. Notice the periapical lucency associated with the mesial root of the mandibular right 3rd premolar. This lucency was not present on the opposite side. There were no gross abnormalities associated with this tooth. The photo was taken after periodontal probing, which created minor inflammation along the gingival margin. A gingival flap was created, the tooth was sectioned for extraction and only the mesial root was freely mobile. Once elevated, there did not appear to be a cystic structure, so the lucency was most likely associated with periapical abscess.

