

ROSTRALLY DISPLACED CANINE TEETH "LANCED TEETH"



A rostrally displaced maxillary canine tooth is often referred to as a "lanced tooth" because the tooth is angled in such a way that it looks like a "lance or sword." The cusp tip and crown of the tooth lies in a horizontal position pointing toward the front of the mouth.

This condition is typically seen in dolichocephalic breeds (breeds with a long narrow muzzle) such as the sheltie and the collie. Left untreated, this creates crowding, which leads to periodontal disease and many times does not allow for a comfortable bite. When the upper canine tooth points forward, there is insufficient room for the lower canine tooth to be in proper position (thus creating a malocclusion/abnormal bite).

Since this condition is often present in shelties and collies, there is a genetic component and it is best not to breed them. Treatment options include:

- Surgical extraction of the lanced canine tooth
- Orthodontics to move the lanced into a more normal position. The lower canine tooth may subsequently need orthodontics to provide a comfortable bite.

