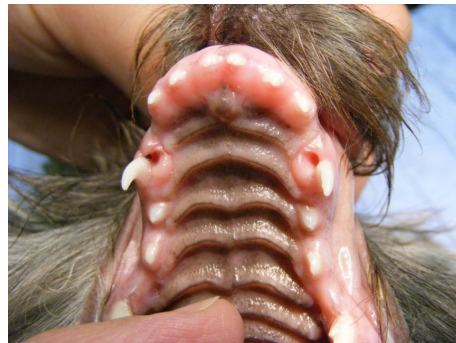


When is the right time to extract deciduous teeth?

So often, we are presented with patients that have malocclusions that have occurred as a result of retained deciduous teeth that were not extracted in a timely manner. When IS the right time to extract them? I will present you with two very common scenarios:

Scenario #1 –

Mandibular canines that are penetrating the hard palate. These teeth need to be extracted immediately to eliminate pain and to improve the delay in mandibular jaw growth that occurs while the mouth is closed.



Scenario #2 –

A permanent and deciduous tooth are both present. There is only space in an alveolus (tooth socket) for 1 tooth. If the permanent tooth emerges and the deciduous tooth has not fallen out it should be extracted. Delaying this extraction leads to eruption of the permanent teeth in improper positions and crowding.



This is a 2 year old Chihuahua who presented for bad breath. Once dental radiographs were performed, 28 teeth had to be extracted (half deciduous and half permanent) due to the crowding that led to severe periodontal disease. Those 14 permanent teeth may have been saved through interceptive orthodontics (extraction of the deciduous teeth when the permanent teeth emerged).

Scenario #3 – Fractured puppy teeth – When is the correct time to extract these teeth?



[CLICK HERE FOR THE CORRECT ANSWER](#)

The answer is: NOW! Never leave a fractured deciduous tooth to fall out on its own or wait for spay/neuter time. Better to move the date of routine surgery and extract the tooth now before it abscesses and affects the permanent tooth.