

FRACTURED TEETH

THE CAROLINAS ANIMAL HOSPITAL AND DENTAL CLINIC



The pulp cavity of the tooth is the region where the blood and nerve is located. A periapical abscess develops secondary to endodontic disease (infection within the pulp cavity) and becomes apparent on dental x-rays as a dark circular lesion at the root tip. This may be secondary to trauma or fracture of the tooth. When a tooth is fractured, there is an opening for bacteria to invade the pulp cavity and create infection. Ultimately, this can lead to infection and pain.

When a tooth is fractured into the pulp cavity the two treatment options will be extraction or root canal. The benefit of root canal is that the tooth is retained. This is particularly important with major chewing and grasping teeth (the 4 canine teeth and the upper and lower carnassial teeth).

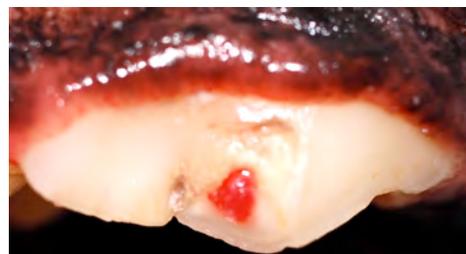
A root canal procedure is essentially painless and requires little recovery time. If a tooth is extracted instead of performing a root canal, your pet will receive a local nerve numbing injection (dental nerve block) in order to minimize discomfort. They will be given an injection of an antibiotic prior to the extraction and they will also take antibiotics home to minimize the possibility of post-operative infection. Next the tooth will be divided into its individual roots and surgically extracted. The tooth socket may also be filled with a bone grafting material to speed the re-growth of bone in that empty socket. Finally, the gums are sutured closed to promote healing. Pain will be adequately managed by giving your anti-inflammatory and pain medications. Your pet will also be scheduled to return 2 weeks after the procedure to insure proper healing and to create a dental home care plan.



x-rays of teeth with abscessed tooth roots (black halos)



fractured tooth crown



fractured tooth with exposed canal (pink opening into the blood and nerve supply)