

MISSING TEETH/DENTIGEROUS CYSTS



A dentigerous cyst is a cyst that forms around an impacted tooth (unerupted tooth) originating from the tissue it. This "cyst" creates pressure on the surrounding jaw bone and destroys the bone in this area. This condition can be found in any breed, however it is most commonly found in brachycephalic breeds (breeds where their lower jaw is longer than their upper jaw).

Often times the tooth affected is the mandibular 1st premolar and many times can be found on both sides of the lower jaw. This is why it is very important to take dental x-rays of any "missing" teeth to determine if the teeth are truly missing or impacted. All adult teeth should be erupted by the time a pet is 6 to 7 months of age.

If your pet does have an impacted tooth and/or a dentigerous cyst, the treatment is oral surgery to remove the impacted tooth. If a dentigerous cyst is present, all of the cystic lining must be removed with the impacted tooth so that the cyst does not re-occur. This empty space in the bone may be filled with a bone grafting material to stimulate bone regrowth. We will sometimes confirm that it is a dentigerous cyst by sending the tissue for a biopsy.

