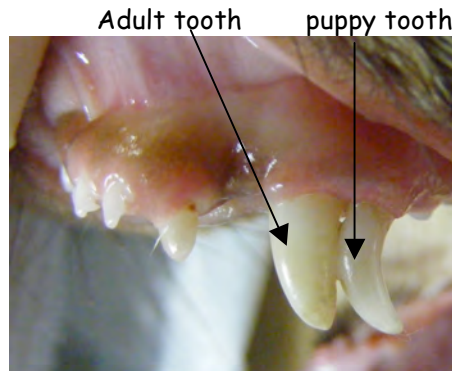


RETAINED PUPPY (DECIDUOUS) TEETH

THE CAROLINAS ANIMAL HOSPITAL AND DENTAL CLINIC

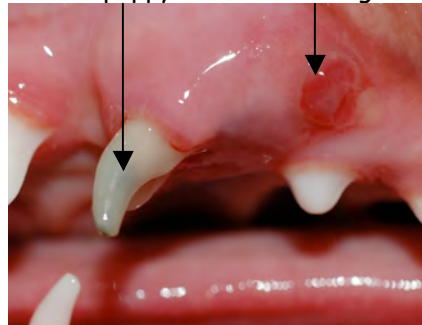
Most dogs lose their puppy teeth by 6 months of age. This process can be hindered with certain pets, especially toy and small breed dogs. Retained puppy teeth create numerous problems that can be eliminated through EARLY INTERVENTION AND EXTRACTION of affected teeth.



Over-crowding is a problem because when there is an adult tooth and a puppy tooth present, both are occupying the same space. Oftentimes, there is no gum tissue between the adult and puppy tooth to hinder food and debris from entering the sockets and rapidly progressing to periodontal disease. Orthodontic issues are also more likely to occur when deciduous teeth are retained secondary to crowding, which pushes the adult teeth out of proper alignment and can lead to a great deal of pain for your pet. Major orthodontic procedures can oftentimes be eliminated simply by extracting the deciduous teeth early (interceptive orthodontics).

THERE SHOULD NEVER BE A DECIDUOUS AND ADULT TOOTH VISIBLE IN THE MOUTH AT THE SAME TIME! Waiting until the puppy is neutered is NOT recommended. Immediate extraction of the deciduous tooth will increase the likelihood of the adult tooth erupting into the socket in a healthy position.

Fractured puppy tooth draining abscess



FRACTURED DECIDUOUS TEETH exposes the pulp (blood and nerve supply inside of the tooth). Once exposed to oral bacteria, pain and infection are inevitable for the deciduous tooth, eventually affecting the permanent tooth that develops so close. A fractured puppy tooth should NEVER remain in the mouth until the pet is spayed or neutered.