

## FELINE TOOTH RESORPTION

### WHAT IS FELINE TOOTH RESORPTION?

Feline tooth resorption, previously known as feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions (FORLs), is a common dental condition in cats where the tooth's structure breaks down. This can occur above or below the gum line, causing pain and weakening the tooth. Approximately 60% of cats over the age of 6 years will have at least one resorptive lesion in their lifetime, and unfortunately cats that have one resorptive lesion usually will develop more. The exact cause of feline tooth resorption is not fully understood, but we know that inflammation plays a role.

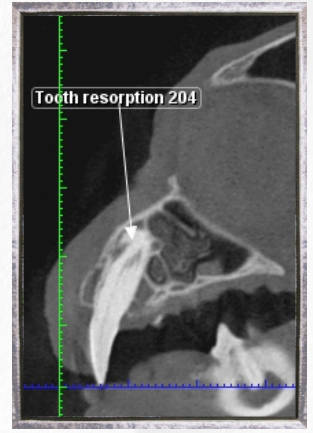
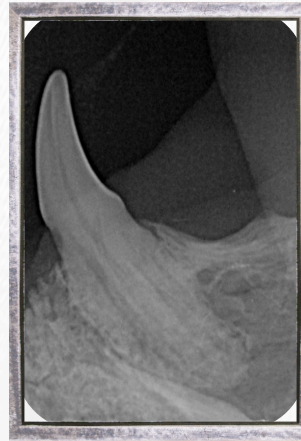
### WHAT ARE SIGNS OF TOOTH RESORPTION?

Cats often show no obvious signs of oral pain. Occasionally, changes in behavior or eating habits may occur. Drooling, pawing at the face, tooth loss, or gingival swelling or bleeding may also be seen.

Clinically, teeth affected with tooth resorption can range from having small red lesions covering part of the tooth to completely missing teeth or noticeable holes in the teeth.

### HOW IS TOOTH RESORPTION DIAGNOSED?

A clinical suspicion for tooth resorption can be made based on awake oral exam, however, an anesthetized oral exam with advanced dental imaging (such as a Cone Beam CT and/or full mouth dental radiographs) is required for diagnosis. Advanced Imaging is also needed to determine the proper treatment plan for teeth affected with tooth resorption.



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Tooth resorption is a very common dental condition in cats
- It causes significant pain and is a progressive disease
- Extraction is the only treatment recommended at this time



### HOW IS TOOTH RESORPTION TREATED?

Tooth resorption is treated with extraction or modified extraction techniques pending dental imaging. There is currently no other treatment option available for feline tooth resorption.

Until researchers discover what causes tooth resorption, we don't have specific ways to prevent it. To proactively prevent pain, routine comprehensive dental procedures including cleaning, oral exam, and dental x-rays will help catch early signs of tooth resorption preventing pain.

Some types of tooth resorption have been associated with periodontal disease. Daily tooth brushing may help slow progression of this type of tooth resorption.

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