

TOP 10 ORAL PATHOLOGIES IN CATS AND DOGS

Key points

- Dental, oral, and maxillofacial diseases** are the **most common** clinical problems in small animal veterinary practices.
- A complete oral exam should be performed during every patient exam. **Every patient, every time.**
- Oral disease is a tremendously **underdiagnosed and undertreated** disease process worldwide.

Most common canine oral pathologies

1. Periodontal diseases
2. Persistent deciduous teeth
3. Fractured teeth
4. Malocclusions
5. Oral masses



Most common feline oral pathologies

1. Periodontal diseases
2. Juvenile gingivitis
3. Tooth resorption
4. Caudal stomatitis
5. Oral trauma



<p>Periodontal diseases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated by plaque, the oral bacteria covering the tooth's surface. Affects most dogs and cats of any age, breed or size. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental consultation Clinical and radiographic assessment under general anaesthesia <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodontal surgery Dental extractions Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up 	<p>Fractured teeth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Found in 49.6% of companion animals. Usually causes pain and infection. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental consultation Clinical and radiographic assessment under general anaesthesia <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endodontic treatment Conservative treatment (bonding, restorations) Dental extractions Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up 	<p>Tooth resorption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of dental hard tissues is common in domestic cats and dogs. Studies have shown that 20 to 75% of mature cats are clinically affected. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental consultation Clinical and radiographic assessment under general anaesthesia <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental extractions Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up
<p>Oral trauma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients may have facial swelling or distortion, oral bleeding, salivation, or abnormal closure of the mouth. Some patients may have minimal to no clinical signs. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgical consultation Clinical and radiographic (preferably 3 dimensional) assessment under general anaesthesia <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral fracture repair Soft tissue damage management Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up 	<p>Oral masses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral tumours account for approximately 7% of tumours in dogs and about 10% in cats. The earlier the diagnosis is done, the more efficient treatment can be. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgical/oncologic consultation Clinical and radiographic assessment under general anaesthesia Biopsy <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncologic surgery: mass excision Adjuvant therapy Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up 	<p>Malocclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any misalignment which is not standard for the breed. May be purely cosmetic or result in trauma. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodontic consultation Clinical and radiographic assessment under general anaesthesia <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interceptive orthodontics Preventive treatment Corrective treatment Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up
<p>Persistent deciduous teeth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained baby or "milk" teeth, most common in toy and small breed dogs. Can cause both orthodontic and periodontal problems. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental consultation Clinical and radiographic assessment under general anaesthesia <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interceptive extractions Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up 	<p>Juvenile gingivitis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can also be associated with eruption problems in dogs and cats. More and more kittens are affected and requires early diagnosis and intervention. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental consultation Clinical and radiographic assessment under general anaesthesia <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gingivoplasty gingivectomy Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up 	<p>Caudal stomatitis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe inflammatory reaction of the oral tissues of cats. Increased discomfort, pain and system effects. <p>Action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental consultation Clinical and radiographic assessment under general anaesthesia <p>Possible treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selective or total extractions Medical treatment Establishment of oral hygiene and follow up



= statistically most common in this species



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