

## **Feline Tooth Resorption (TR)**

Feline tooth resorption typically originates in the cementum, may progress into root dentin, and then either progress through the root, into the crown, or both. Tooth resorption that can be identified on oral examination is an indication for radiographic evaluation and treatment. **Intraoral radiography is necessary for proper treatment planning.** Whole-mouth radiographs are recommended to evaluate other teeth in the mouth.

Complete extraction is the treatment of choice for teeth that have detectable crown resorption but no radiographic evidence of root resorption. Teeth with crown resorption but radiographic signs of advanced root resorption (and no concurrent periodontal disease, periapical periodontitis or stomatitis) may be treated by subgingival amputation. Either form of treatment should be followed by gingival closure. If there is radiographic evidence of root resorption, but no clinical resorption can be detected on oral examination, the tooth can be "monitored" or preemptively extracted. Progression through the resorptive process results in pulp exposure and pain; intervening treatment should take place before this occurs. Restoration of teeth undergoing resorption is not recommended and has not been shown to arrest or stall the resorptive process.

Periodic dental examinations are recommended for all cats with previous diagnosis of tooth resorption. Radiography should be repeated annually or more frequently as dictated by the oral examination.

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