

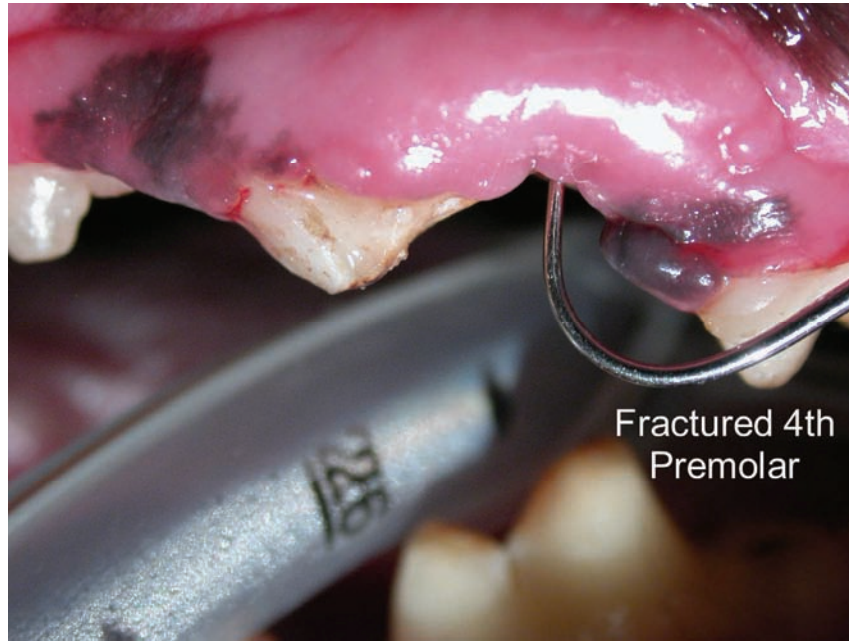
CASE OF THE MONTH

(January 2011)

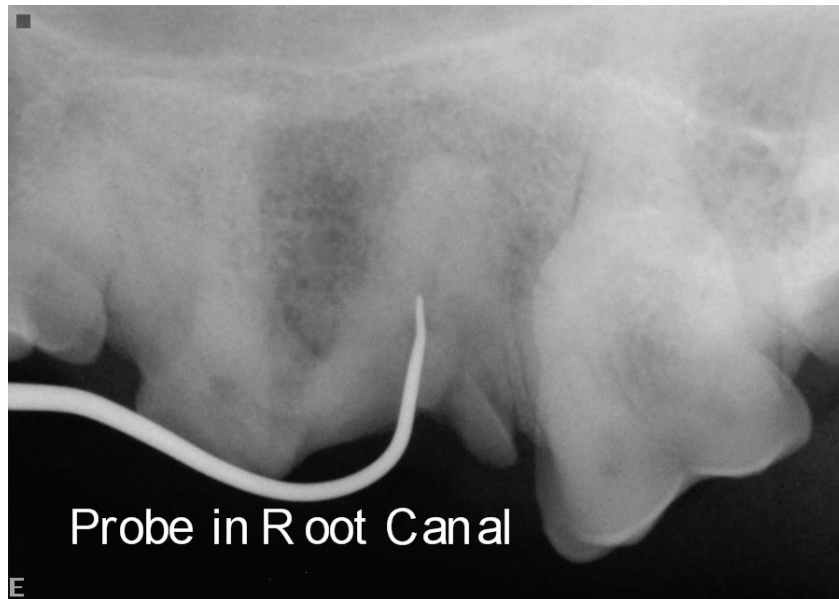
Signalment and History: A twelve year old spayed female Border Collie mix was referred for a slight left infraorbital swelling and a history of eating gingerly and pawing at her face.

Procedures: The patient was placed under general anesthesia for a complete oral examination and intraoral radiography. The left maxillary 4th premolar was fractured with a significant loss of tooth structure. The appearance of the gingiva and staining of the remaining tooth suggested a long duration.

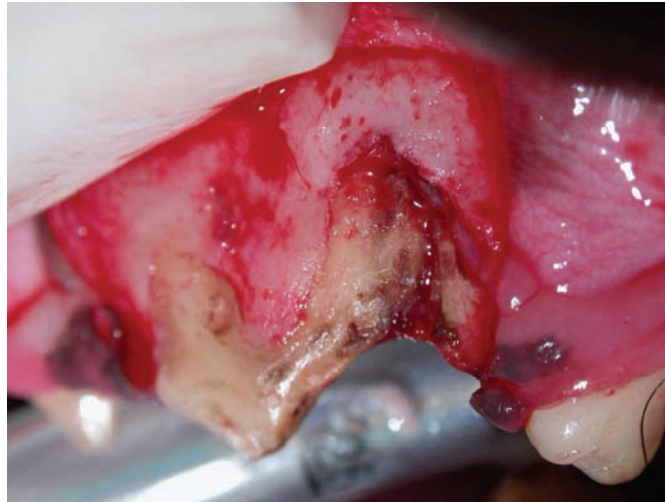




A Shepherd's hook explorer was placed into the fracture site and a radiograph was exposed.



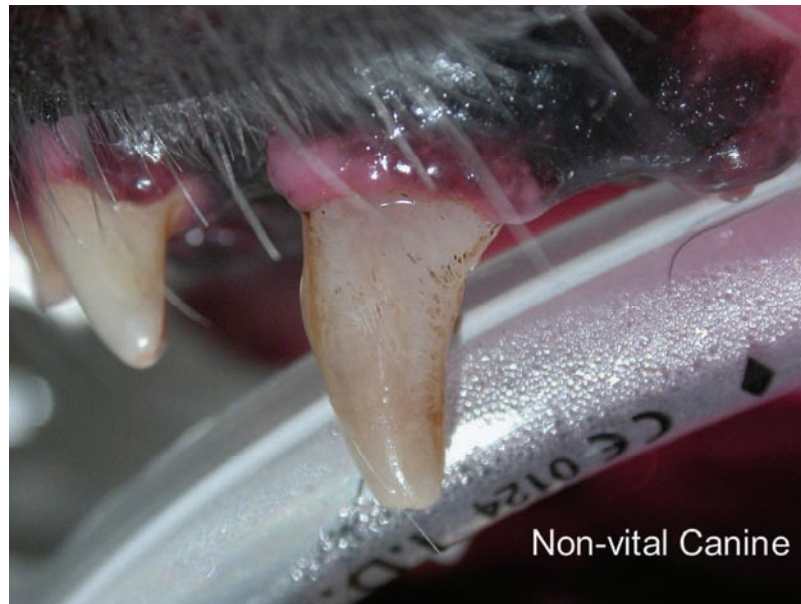
The extensive damage done to this tooth precluded root canal therapy, so we elected to surgically extract it. Upon reflecting the periodontal flap we could see the extensive bone loss that had already occurred over the roots of this tooth.



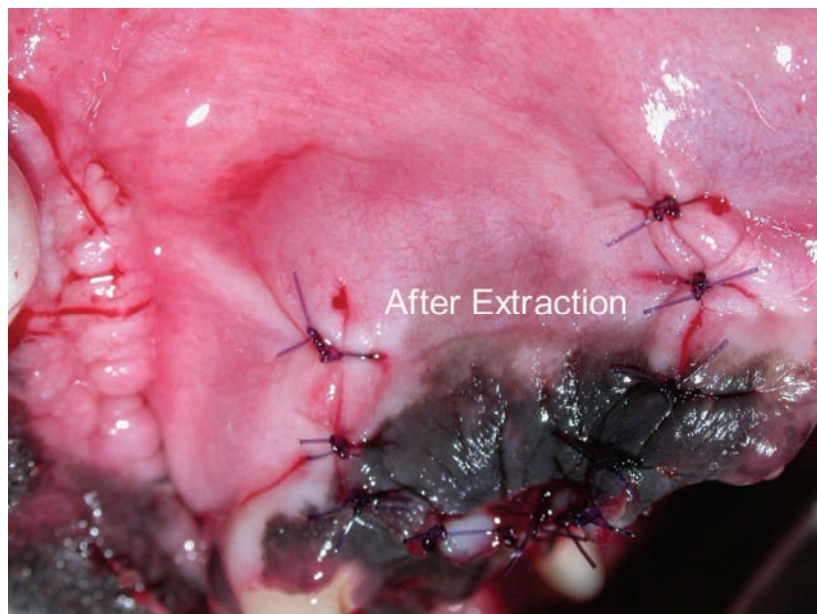
The extraction was completed and the incision closed with 4-0 Monocryl in a simple interrupted pattern.



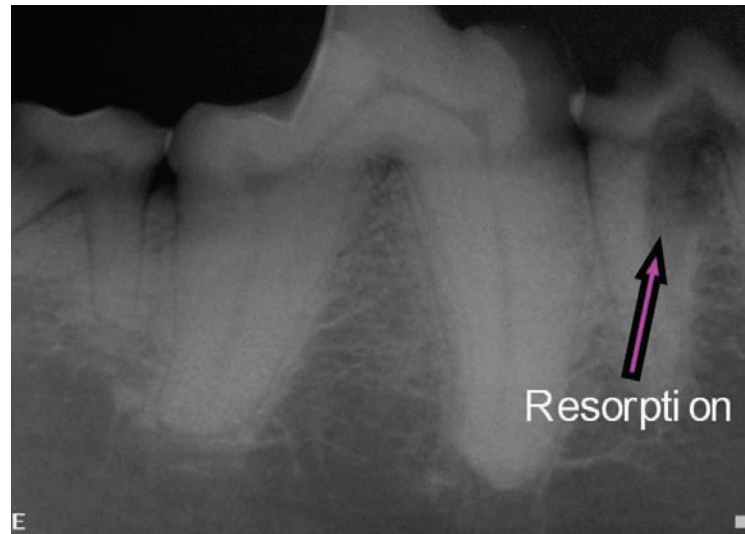
Further examination revealed a discolored left maxillary canine tooth, indicating that it was non-vital.



This tooth was also surgically extracted and the mucoperiosteal flap was closed with 4-0 Monocryl.



Our ongoing oral examination next revealed a resorptive lesion that had perforated the crown of the right mandibular 4th premolar on its lingual surface. An intraoral radiograph documented this extensive damage.



This tooth was also surgically extracted.



Discussion: This patient was presented primarily for showing discomfort during eating and pawing at the face as if in pain. We often attempt to explain all of a patient's clinical signs with a single diagnosis, but it is important to continue to search for other possible causes of the patient's signs. In this case, any one of the teeth that we extracted could have been solely responsible for the signs the owner was describing, but it is imperative that we continue our search until the examination is complete.

At the one week post-operative examination, the owner reported that the patient's behavior had improved significantly and she appeared to be free of pain.

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