

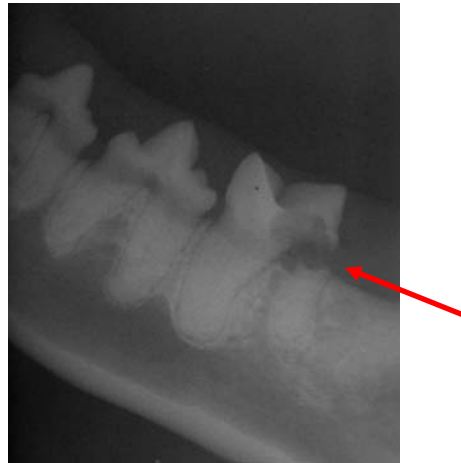
## Feline Dentistry

### Feline tooth resorption

Tooth resorptions occur in many cats. These lesions are similar to what we would consider a 'cavity' in that they are a defect in the tooth surface, but the cause of tooth resorption in cats is unknown. (Human cavities are caused by bacteria). External resorption usually begins at the crown root junction. These lesions first affect only the enamel or cementum surface of the tooth, but they are progressive and destructive lesions. Full mouth intraoral radiographs are *required* for proper evaluation of cats with tooth resorption. The treatment for tooth resorption in cats is extraction of the affected tooth.



Tooth resorption present on the left lower first molar with red granulation tissue present.



Intraoral radiograph showing tooth resorption.

Intraoral radiograph tooth resorption lesion involving the right lower first molar and right lower right third premolar. Note the presence of resorption of the tooth roots of the right lower third premolar (type II tooth resorption), the complicated crown fracture of the right lower canine tooth and the uncomplicated crown fracture of the right lower fourth premolar tooth.



## Feline gingivostomatitis

Feline lymphocytic plasmacytic gingivostomatitis (LPGS) is a chronic inflammatory disorder of the gingival and mucosal tissues of domestic cats. Many factors have been discussed as causative or contributory to this disease process but the etiology is unknown. What we do know is that it is an atypical immune. Treatment of this disease is difficult and often frustrating. The goal of treatment is elimination of plaque. After a diagnostic evaluation process, the first step in treatment is complete periodontal therapy including full mouth radiographs, and extraction of any teeth with periodontal disease or tooth resorption, followed by diligent home care. Often these cats are uncomfortable and home care is not possible. Some patients require extraction of all of their upper and lower premolars and molars and possibly extraction of their canine teeth and incisor teeth also. Full mouth extraction (premolars and molars) results in decreased inflammation in the oral cavity of most patients. However, a few patients still require medical treatment to keep their disease under control.



Side view and open mouth view of a cat with lymphocytic plasmacytic gingivostomatitis. Note the severe inflammation of all of the tissues in the oral cavity.