

Orthodontics

Correction of malocclusions

Every dog and cat deserves to have a functional comfortable bite. Malocclusions which result in patient discomfort require treatment. Orthodontic treatment is not recommended for malocclusions that are not causing patient discomfort.

Mesioversion of the maxillary canine tooth in a dog and cat

Mesioversion of the maxillary canine tooth occurs when the crown of the tooth is deviated rostrally (toward the nose). The result is impingement on the opposing teeth or lip and crowding of the tooth with the adjacent maxillary third incisor tooth. Treatment options for this condition include extraction of the affected tooth or orthodontic movement of the affected tooth / teeth.

Mesioversion of the left maxillary canine tooth in a Sheltie



Malocclusion resulting from palatal contact of mandibular canine teeth

Several types of malocclusions may result in deviation of the mandibular canine tooth lingually which causes the tooth to impact the palate. Treatments for this condition may include the use of intermittent force orthodontics ('kong' therapy), orthodontic movement with an incline plane, crown reduction and vital pulp therapy (see this topic in endodontics), or extraction.