



## **ABOUT THE DISEASE**

A **tooth root abscess** is an infection in or around the root of the tooth and can affect both canine and feline patients of any age.

There are 2 forms of **tooth root abscess**:

- Acute – typically due to some type of dental trauma with exposed pulp tissues
  - Can become chronic over time if the infection is left untreated
- Chronic – occurs along with or as a result of periodontal disease
  - *Please see the [Periodontal Disease](#) document for additional information*

In either case, symptoms include:

- Facial pain
- Facial swelling with possible drainage
- Visible discolored or fractured tooth
- Single nostril nasal discharge with pus or blood

## **OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS**

Typically suspected on a physical examination when a patient presents with a fever, facial lymph node enlargement, painful facial swelling, or visible draining.

Confirmation requires examination and x-rays (radiographs) taken during routine dental cleaning.

## **TREATMENT**

Short-term therapy includes antibiotics, pain medications, and anti-inflammatory medications. However, these are NOT a replacement for dental cleaning and inspection.

Patients will ultimately require the bad and/or infected teeth to be removed.

## **TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

- Routine dental cleaning is the most important for treating and preventing a **tooth root abscess**.
- Oral medications are only a short-term solution, and never a replacement for tooth extractions.