



FELINE ORAL RESORPTIVE LESIONS

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Feline oral resorptive lesions are present when the tooth erodes away at the gum line and continues into the tooth root. Sometimes these lesions will also erode into the tooth crown, or both tooth root and crown.

Tooth resorption is the most common dental problem in cats and the underlying cause is currently under investigation.

Feline patients are typically affected when they are over five (5) years of age, and the likelihood increases as they grow older. Patients with dental tartar and periodontal disease may be at higher risk of developing **feline oral resorptive lesions**.

Symptoms include:

- Drooling (hypersalivation, ptyalism)
- Cherry-red or bleeding gums
- Willingness to eat, but reluctance at the food bowl
- Irritability
- Chattering of the teeth, or holding the mouth slightly open

Other diseases may develop such as a [Tooth Root Abscess](#) and [Pyelonephritis](#). Please see those documents for more information.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Annual physical examination by a veterinarian is the most useful screening for **feline oral resorptive lesions**.

In subtle cases, annual cleanings with dental x-rays (radiograph) can find early signs of resorption and degeneration.

In advanced cases, the crowns of some teeth may be missing, or patients may have developed dental abscesses.

TREATMENT

Usually, teeth need to be extracted.

There are little to no medical management options for patients with **feline oral resorptive lesions**.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Annual dental screenings need to be done at least once per year.
- Periodic dental x-rays will help early detection, which cannot be seen on screening.
 - Teeth that are in question should be rechecked in 6 months with repeat dental x-rays.
- A cat that has had one tooth affected with resorption is likely to develop the problem in additional teeth.