



## FELINE ORAL RESORPTIVE LESIONS

### ABOUT THE DISEASE

Feline oral resorptive lesions are a disease process where tooth roots spontaneously resorb in stages; crowns weaken/break. Changes mostly subgingival, often asymptomatic until advanced.

#### Prevalence & Risks:

Common in cats >3 years (increases with age). Unknown cause; possible auto-immune, genetic, viral (calicivirus, FIV), tartar/periodontal disease links.

#### Symptoms:

- Drooling (ptyalism)
- Eats willingly but reluctant at bowl; head tilt, drops food.
- Irritability.
- Teeth chattering, mouth agape, facial pain.

#### Complications:

Bacterial invasion risks abscess, pyelonephritis (see docs).

### OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

#### Screening:

Annual vet physical exam detects early signs.

#### Definitive:

Sedated dental radiographs required (subgingival changes invisible otherwise).

#### By Stage:

- Subtle: Annual cleanings + x-rays spot resorption.
- Advanced: Missing crowns, abscesses visible.

### TREATMENT

Usually, teeth need to be extracted. Depending on degree of disease present, a veterinarian will determine if the entire tooth root needs to be removed or if just the crown of the tooth needs to be removed. The treatment course cannot be fully assessed without dental x-rays.

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.