



## TOOTH ROOT ABSCESS

### 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.