

## Case of the Month

### June 2007

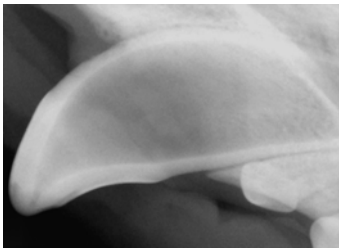
#### History and Signalment

A 2 yr old German Shepherd presented for treatment of a discolored maxillary canine tooth. The owner noticed that the tooth was fractured 2-3 weeks prior to presentation.

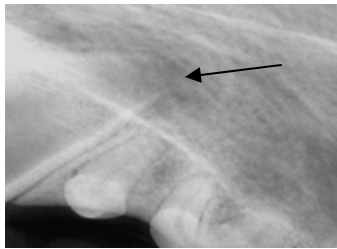


#### Physical Exam/Diagnosis

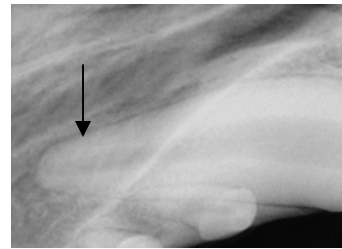
The right maxillary canine tooth was discolored. A small fracture was present at the tip of the tooth and the pulp chamber was exposed. The gingiva was recessed 12 mm on the buccal surface of the canine tooth. Intraoral radiographs of the canine tooth showed an open apex. The walls of the tooth were very thin compared to the left canine tooth, indicating that the tooth had been dead for a while. A diagnosis of a non-vital tooth with a complicated crown fracture was made.



Crown of left canine tooth.



Open apex of left canine tooth.



Normal root of right canine tooth.

**Treatment:** A surgical extraction was performed to remove the necrotic tooth. The gingival was sutured with 4-0 monocryl.



Photo of extraction site prior to closure.



The extraction site was sutured.



Photo of extracted tooth.

**Discussion:** Based on the radiographic appearance of the tooth, it was probably fractured over a year ago. Due to the open apex and extremely thin walls of the tooth, extraction carried the best prognosis. However, if the client was insistent on saving the tooth, a procedure could have been performed to stimulate closure of the apex allowing root canal therapy to be performed.

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