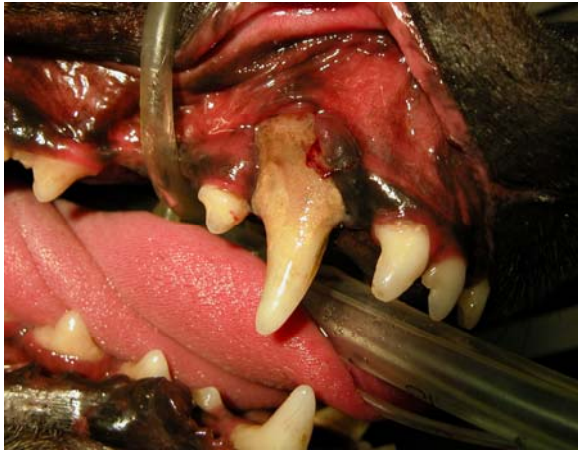


## Case of the Month

### November 2007

An 11yr old dachshund presented for periodontal therapy. The oral exam showed severe gingival recession at the upper right canine tooth. The teeth were scaled and polished. Antibiotics were dispensed and the owner was instructed to rinse the mouth with a chlorhexidine solution twice daily. Periodontal surgery was scheduled three weeks later.



Initial photo showing severe gingival recession.

Three weeks later the dog returned for periodontal surgery to correct the area of severe gingival recession. After preparing the affected tooth root, a lateral sliding pedicle graft was performed. The chlorhexidine rinses were continued and antibiotics and pain medication were dispensed. A recheck examination was performed three weeks later.



Photo of tooth prior to surgery.



A sliding pedicle flap was performed to cover the exposed root.

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Exam room photo taken of tooth three weeks after surgery.

Gingival grafts or flaps are advanced techniques that can be used to correct area of severe gingival recession. When the attached gingival is lost around a tooth, the tooth becomes more susceptible to destruction from periodontal disease. Several factors must be considered before a flap or graft is used including the health of the tooth, dedication of the owner to home care, poor health of the patient or uncontrolled periodontal disease.

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