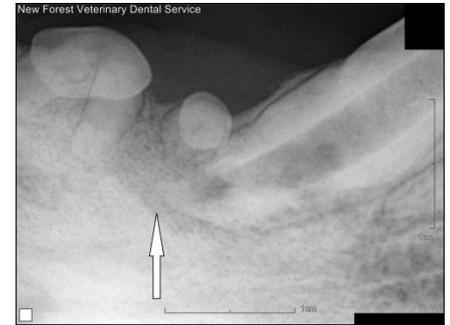


FOCUS ON TOOTH TRAUMA – TRAUMATISED TEETH NEED TREATMENT

Traumatised teeth are the most common reason for referrals to our service. Tooth trauma results in inflammation developing within the pulp chamber of the tooth (pulpitis), which is very painful. If the trauma causes a fracture and the pulp is exposed, then bacteria from the oral cavity can directly enter the pulp and pulp necrosis will develop. Even if the tooth isn't openly fractured, because of the sealed nature of a pulp, the swelling associated will also result in pulp necrosis. Necrotic pulp is a continuous source of bacterial infection, and within a short period of time, will induce a severe inflammatory response in the tissues around the tooth which is also very painful. Without treatment, this inflammation will develop into a 'tooth root abscess' which can have serious consequences. The abscess will destroy the bone surrounding the tooth and may burst either as a sinus tract through the mucosa or skin, into the nasal cavity or may result in jaw fracture.



These are photographs and a radiograph from a 10 year old golden retriever who probably fractured his mandibular canine teeth when he was less than 2 years old. From the photograph you can see that there was a large, painful sinus tract (arrowed) that had developed from the mucosa just caudal to the labial frenulum. The radiographs shows the extent of the bone damage (arrowed) with all of the buccal bone missing along with bone extending to the second premolar. The first premolar was loose. Unfortunately, due to the extent of the damage to the tooth itself, the only treatment option was to extract these teeth.



This young dog fractured his mandibular canine tooth catching a stone. The owners knew instantly that the tooth had fractured as there was bleeding from the fracture site. The tooth was treated successfully with a **root canal treatment**. This is a minimally invasive procedure commonly carried out in humans. Treating traumatised teeth this way means that there is **no painful extraction** (patients are instantly comfortable when waking from anaesthesia) and a tooth that has huge structural and functional significance can be retained.



We are an independent, dental and oral surgery referral practice with clinics in Dorset, Devon and Hampshire. We offer treatment for a range of conditions including root canal treatment for fractured and devitalised teeth, orthodontic treatment of traumatic malocclusions, feline oral diseases including Tooth Resorption and Gingivostomatitis and treatment of oral trauma and neoplasia.

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