

Lingually Displaced Canines

Owner information sheet





Lingually displaced canines is a condition which causes the baby teeth to erupt in the wrong position, meaning the tip of the canine tooth cuts into the roof of the mouth. The cause of the abnormal growth can be due to an incorrect eruption pathway or a shortened lower jaw. If left untreated, the adult canines will likely cause the same problem. The condition is usually identified during the puppy stage and should be treated promptly by surgical removal if they are causing pain.

There are several reasons that these teeth require to be removed as soon as possible:

- They often cause pain by cutting into the roof of the mouth
- To allow the jaw to develop normally
- To allow the adult teeth to develop normally

The adult canines will usually start to erupt between 22 and 24 weeks of age. It is important that the deciduous canines are removed as soon as possible, usually before 16 weeks of age, to allow the adult canines to move into the correct position in the jaw before eruption. In some cases this will not happen. If this is the case then the adult teeth unfortunately will require surgical removal or other treatment by a specialist dental vet. Additionally if the deciduous canines have been surgically removed there is a risk that the adult canines could be affected and erupt discoloured or damaged and need to be removed.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY RESCUE ANIMAL AND ME?

Your pet will either have had surgery already to remove the lingually displaced deciduous canines or the teeth have been noted as incorrectly positioned but have not yet caused painful indentations though will require monitoring and possibly surgery in the next few months. You are advised to make regular appointments with your veterinary surgery to monitor the progress of the teeth. If your vet considers it necessary then your pet will be required to undergo surgery to remove these teeth and you, as the owner of your new pet, would be financially responsible for this. There will likely be insurance exclusions on your policy regarding teeth, and you should discuss this with your chosen insurance provider before you take out a policy.