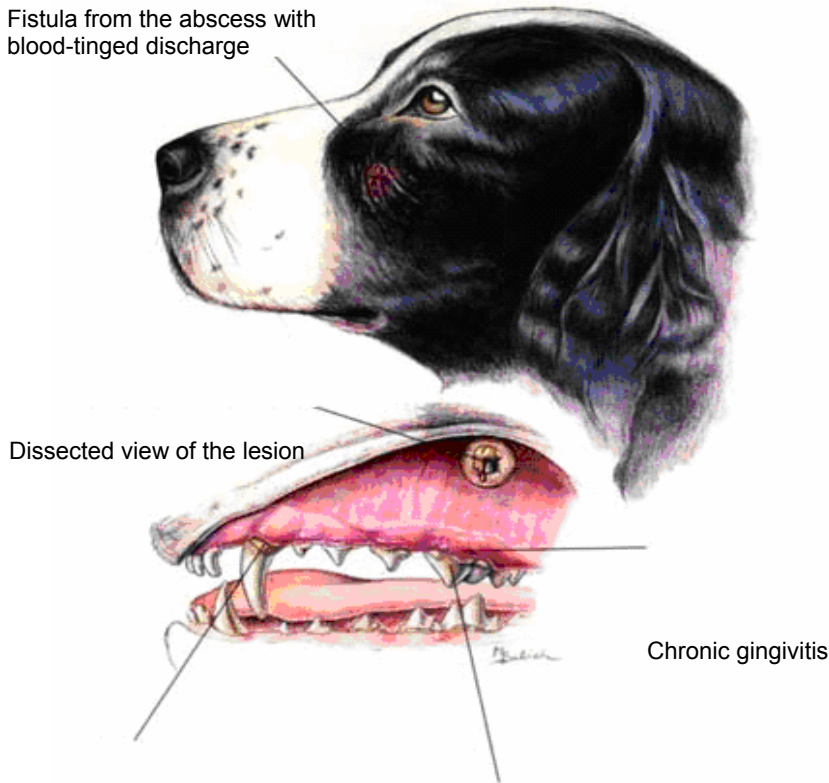


Fistula from the abscess with blood-tinged discharge



Calculus formation

Carnassial tooth

## Carnassial Tooth Abscess

### Diagnostic Plan

History  
Physical examination  
Oral examination

### Therapeutic Plan

Tooth extraction

### Nutritional Plan

Nutrition based on overall patient evaluation including body condition and other organ system involvement  
A soft food may minimize post surgical pain

## Carnassial Tooth Abscess

Your pet has a carnassial tooth abscess. A carnassial tooth abscess results in a swelling or draining sore on the side of your pet's face below its eye. Treatment is removal of the infected tooth that caused the abscess. This client education sheet will help you learn more about carnassial tooth abscess and will review your veterinarian's instructions for your pet's care at home, as well as follow-up with the veterinary health care team.

### What You Should Know About Carnassial Tooth Abscess

The carnassial tooth is the fourth upper premolar tooth. This tooth has three roots. A carnassial abscess is an infection of the roots of this tooth.

#### Causes

There are many causes of tooth root abscesses including trauma from a blow to the tooth, fighting, chewing hard objects, to bacteria from periodontal disease.

#### Diagnosis

Carnassial tooth abscess is diagnosed by your veterinarian based on the presence of a swelling or draining sore beneath the eye. X-rays are needed to confirm which tooth is involved.

## Treatment and Home Care

Treatment consists of removing the infected tooth after a general anesthetic is given. After the tooth is removed, your veterinarian will drain the abscess through the now empty tooth socket. The abscess may also be treated by your veterinarian with endodontic procedures, for example a root canal. Endodontics may require that a large part of the tooth be removed.

Other dental procedures such as tooth scaling to remove plaque and calculus may also be necessary. Polishing the teeth is performed routinely after scaling. Following extraction, bleeding may continue for a day or two. If bleeding is severe, your veterinarian may pack the tooth socket with gauze. Antibiotics may be given after the tooth is removed.

Home care consists of giving all prescribed medications and making sure your pet begins to eat normally. Your vet may recommend that you give nothing hard to chew for several days. The swelling will subside and the draining sore will begin to heal in two to three days. For tips about plaque removal at home, ask your veterinarian for a copy of the *Hill's® Client Information Series* handout titled "Reducing the Risks of Canine Periodontal Disease" or "Reducing the Risks of Feline Periodontal Disease."

Your veterinarian will probably schedule routine office visits to check your pet's teeth. These visits will allow him or her to help you combat periodontal disease through dental scalings and other necessary procedures designed to help your pet keep its teeth.

## Nutritional Plan

If your pet had a tooth extraction due to carnassial tooth abscess, your veterinarian may give you special feeding instructions. Your veterinarian may recommend *a/d* because it is soft, highly palatable and provides the nutrition your dog or cat needs to repair tissue.

Optimal nutrition provides for a pet's need based on age and activity level, and reduces the health risks associated with feeding excess sodium, calcium, phosphorus, protein, and calories. Foods that avoid these harmful excesses and also reduce the tartar and plaque that contribute to gum disease and bad breath include Hill's® Prescription Diet® Canine *t/d*® and Feline *t/d*®.

## Transitioning Food

Unless recommended otherwise by your veterinarian, gradually introduce any new food over a seven-day period. Mix the new food with your pet's former food, gradually increasing its proportion until only the new food is fed.

If your pet is one of the few that doesn't readily accept a new food, try warming the canned food to body temperature, hand feeding for the first few days, or mixing the dry food with warm water (wait ten minutes before serving). However, do not add water to your cat's food. Feed only the recommended food. Be patient but firm with your pet. This is important because the success or failure of treatment depends to a large degree on strict adherence to the new food.

---

Presented as an educational service by

---



## Home Care Instructions

Client's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Nutritional Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow-Up Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

(Hospital Stamp Area Above)

REGULAR VISITS WILL HELP OUR VETERINARY HEALTH CARE TEAM PROVIDE FOR YOUR PET'S BEST INTEREST.