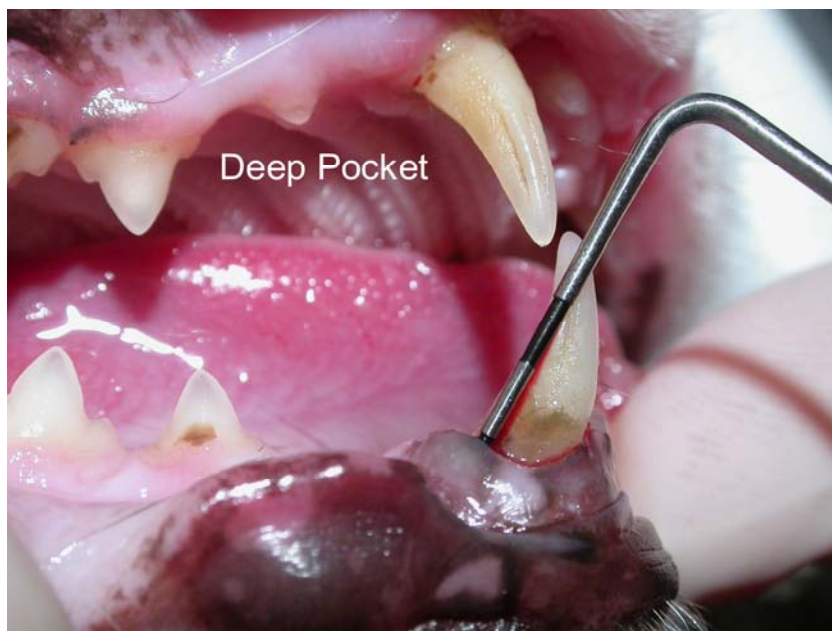


CASE OF THE MONTH (July 2009)

Signalment and History:

A thirteen year old spayed female Domestic Shorthair cat presented for an oral examination. Moderate calculus was noted and the patient was placed under general anesthesia for a more thorough oral exam.

Procedures: Once under general anesthesia, periodontal probing revealed significant pocketing around all four canine teeth.

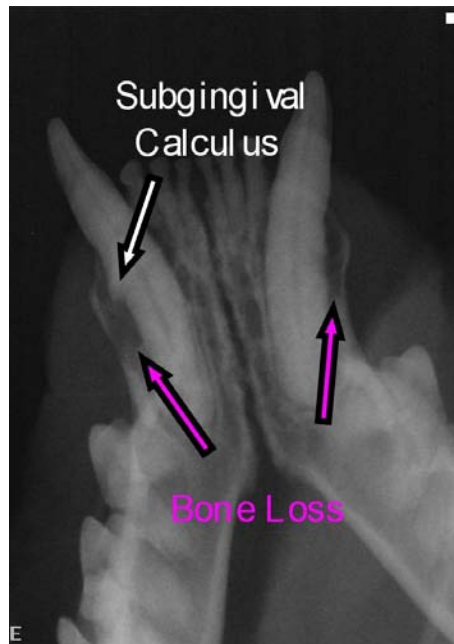




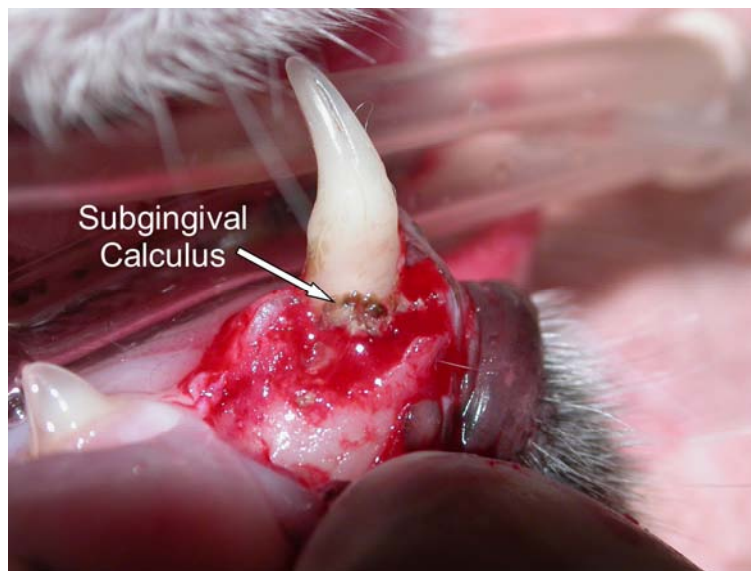
Intraoral radiographs showed bone loss on all canine teeth, accompanied by a bulging of the alveolar bone, resulting in a thin, shell-like appearance. The bone loss was considered to be equal to or greater than 50 % of the normal coverage of alveolar bone.



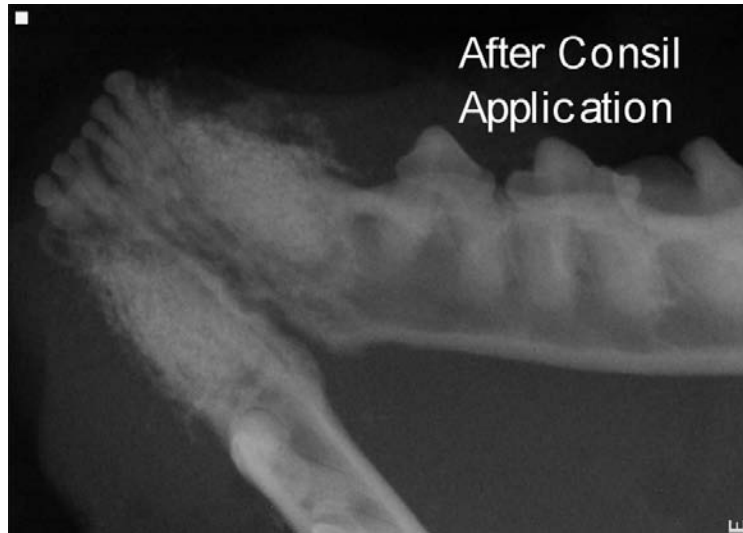
Subgingival calculus could be seen radiographically on one mandibular canine tooth. Extraction of the canines was selected as the treatment of choice.



After elevating a flap for exposure, the subgingival calculus was easily visible.



After extracting these canines, Consil was placed into the empty alveoli to maintain alveolar ridge integrity and the strength of the jaw.



Discussion: We have all seen these geriatric feline patients with firm, bulbous swellings at the base of the canine teeth. These swellings are the result of chronic periodontal disease, and the proper descriptive term is “alveolar osteitis.” Occasionally the canine tooth will also be super-erupted, or extruded. When examined closely, the cemento-enamel junction can be seen supragingivally, while normally it is hidden beneath the gingival margin. In these cases the affected tooth may appear to be longer than its contralateral partner. The tooth is being forced out of the alveolus and extends farther into the oral cavity than normal. It is almost as if the body is rejecting this diseased tooth.

After creating a flap for exposure when extracting these teeth, the alveolar bone often appears moth-eaten and “pithy.” The bulge of alveolar bone is easily reduced with a dental bur, Consil is placed into the empty alveolus, and the flap is closed with an absorbable monofilament suture material.

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