



Our locations

Greencross Woolloongabba, 14 Cleveland St, Stones Corner, QLD 4120
Deagon & Sandgate Vetwell, 80 Board St, QLD 4017

This Client Handout is to be used as a guide only.
It does not replace the importance of a full consultation and oral examination performed by our vet dental specialist, Dr. Will Basuki.

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Endodontic Disease

Tooth Infection

About

Endodontic disease is defined as the disease that impacts the dentin and pulp complex.

A tooth is considered as a vital structure as it contains pulp tissues that occupy the entire interior tooth vault. The pulp tissues consist of blood vessels and nerves

that supply nutrients, sensation, and blood to the tooth. When a tooth is injured, inflammatory process occurs within the pulp tissue, known as pulpitis. Pulpitis may lead to pulpal/tooth death which leads to an endodontic disease and presents itself as a tooth root abscess.

What are the causes?

Generally, any type of injury and/or exposure of the pulp tissue to the oral bacteria will increase the risk of the endodontic disease development, common examples:

1. Tooth fracture
2. Severe attrition or abrasion
3. Concussive injury or blunt trauma (tooth discoloration)
4. Periodontal/gum disease
5. Congenital abnormalities (e.g., enamel hypoplasia)



Fractured tooth with an exposed pulp



Purple discoloration on the right maxillary/upper canine tooth in a dog





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Signs of an Endodontic Disease

An endodontic disease in our pets commonly presents itself as a tooth root abscess. You may notice a one-sided facial swelling and/or pus may be coming out of a draining tract from the facial and/or gum swelling

area. Your pets' appetite may be reduced with some cases may show some oral sensitivity or reluctant to chew on their favourite toys. It is also not uncommon for some pets to show no signs at all!

Treatment Options

1. Surgical extraction

This involves a surgical flap and bone removal followed by tooth elevation. The surgery area will be sutured closed to allow faster and appropriate healing. Your pet's quality of life is not negatively impacted following the extraction despite the loss of the tooth. Dogs and cats can still eat normally and well after a tooth extraction (or even full-mouth extractions!). Surgical extraction carries a risk of jaw fracture especially for the lower teeth such as canines/first molars. The risk is usually lower when it is done appropriately and/or by a vet dental specialist 😊.

2. Root canal therapy

The aim of this procedure is to debride the dead pulp tissues inside the tooth, to sterilize the pulp cavity, and to fully fill it with a biocompatible material. The tooth will then be restored to prevent any bacteria access to

the pulp cavity. The functionality of the tooth remains in the oral cavity. The success rate for the root canal therapy is approximately 95%. A recheck dental radiograph under anaesthesia is required to be done annually to monitor the tooth.

3. Vital pulp therapy

In a freshly fractured tooth that occurs within 24-48 hours, this procedure can be done by Dr. Will Basuki, our dental specialist to maintain the tooth vitality and to prevent endodontic disease to occur. The success rate of this procedure is approximately 84%. This involves in cleaning the fracture site and filling in the tooth partially with a biocompatible filling material followed by restoring the fracture site. A recheck dental radiograph under anaesthesia is required to be done annually to monitor the tooth.

Your primary vet may diagnose an endodontic disease in your pet's oral cavity and refer you to us.

During your consultation, Dr. Will Basuki, the vet dental specialist, will evaluate, discuss the treatment options, and guide you to choose the most appropriate one as not every pet's condition is the same!

