

## Case of the Month

### February 2007

**History and Signalment:** A 16-month-old Maltese presented for treatment of a suborbital swelling with a draining tract below the right eye. The swelling had been present for about 3 weeks and was not responding to antibiotics.

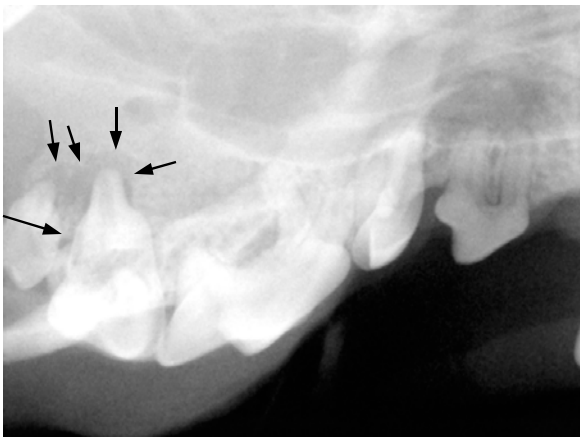
**Physical Exam/Diagnosis:** The oral exam was uneventful. The teeth were normal except for some mild calculus and gingivitis. No fractures were present and no periodontal pockets were found.



Photo of swelling and draining tract.



Photo of right side of a relatively "healthy" looking mouth.



The arrows point to endodontic lesions involving the 1st and 2nd molars.



The 1st and 2nd molars were extracted. The extraction sites were sutured closed.

This case was very similar to the January Case of the Month. The main difference is the lack of any obvious problems found during the oral exam. Intraoral radiographs were critical in treating this dog appropriately. Standard skull radiographs often do not pick up endodontic lesions. Usually, these draining tracts are caused by the 4th premolar to the 2nd molar, but other teeth, including the canines, could be the cause. Extracting the affected teeth is not always the only treatment. Root canal therapy can often be performed instead.

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