

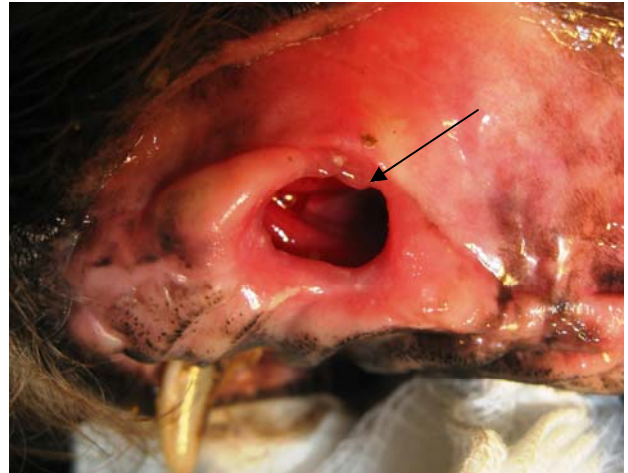
## Case of the Month February 2008

### Signalment and History

13yr Bichon Frise presented for periodontal therapy. The dog was recently rescued from a breeding facility. Unknown diet prior to presentation, but currently eating a dry kibble.



Grade 4 periodontal disease. Most of the teeth, including the upper left canine were mobile.



A large oronasal fistula can be seen at the location of the left upper canine tooth.

### Treatment

After taking full-mouth intraoral radiographs, all of the teeth were extracted. Due to the chronic nature and size of the oronasal fistula, a double flap technique was performed. The dog was placed on a soft diet and instructed to rinse the mouth with 0.12% chlorhexidine solution twice daily.

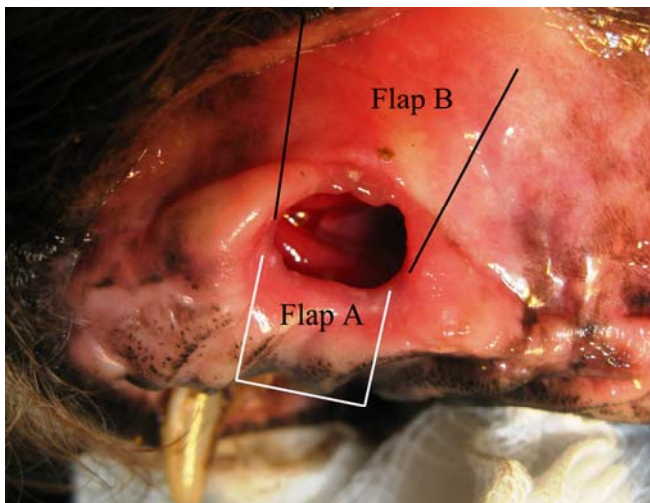


Photo showing the outline of the flaps used for the double flap technique.

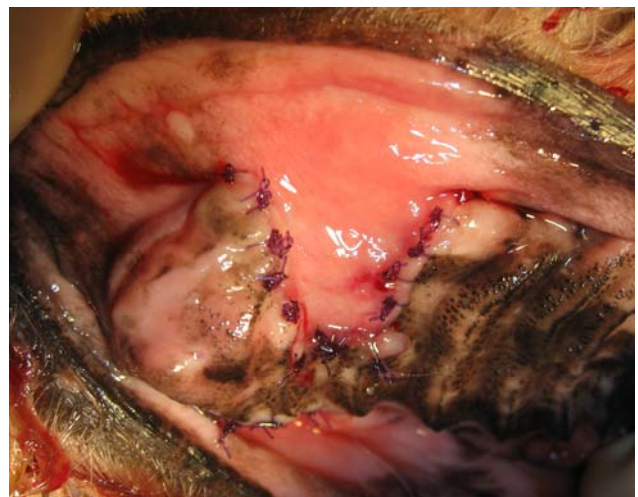


Photo after the double flap closure.

The double flap technique offers a greater prognosis for closure of oronasal fistulas compared to a single flap. Good tissue handling and minimal tension on the tissues are very important for the success of the flaps. With the double flap technique, the full-thickness palatal flap (Flap A) is elevated and flipped upside down over the fistula and sutured in place. Then, the buccal mucosal flap (Flap B) is sutured over the defect left by Flap A. Dehiscence can occur and rechecks are recommended.



Good healing 1 week post-op.

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