



A 1.5cm mass was found on the right lateral border of the tongue of a 11yr old German Shepherd.



A 1 cm section around the tumor was excised. A 3 layer closure was used to close the defect in the tongue.

The diagnosis was a squamous cell carcinoma, the most common lingual tumor in the dog and cat. Luckily, the deep and lateral margins were clean at 1cm. Ideally, a 1.5cm margin would have been more appropriate for a squamous cell carcinoma. The prognosis was guarded due to the possibility of local recurrence on the tongue or at the regional lymph nodes. Excellent healing was visible two weeks after the surgery. Dehiscence could be a sign that the tumor was not excised adequately. A wedge resection can be used for tumors on the side of the tongue. If the tumor crosses the midline, tongue amputation is recommended.