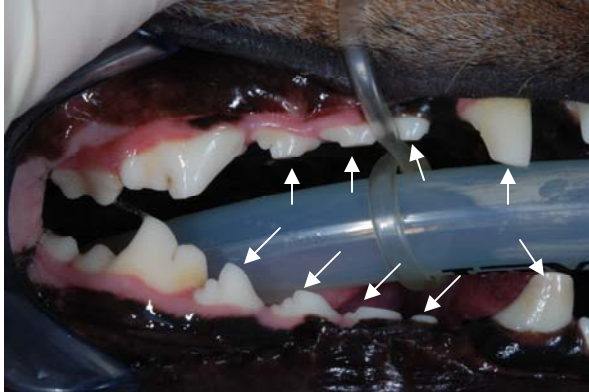
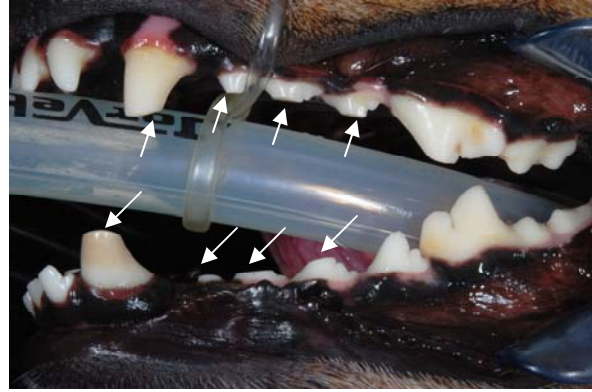


Severe Tennis Ball Abrasion in a Blue Heeler



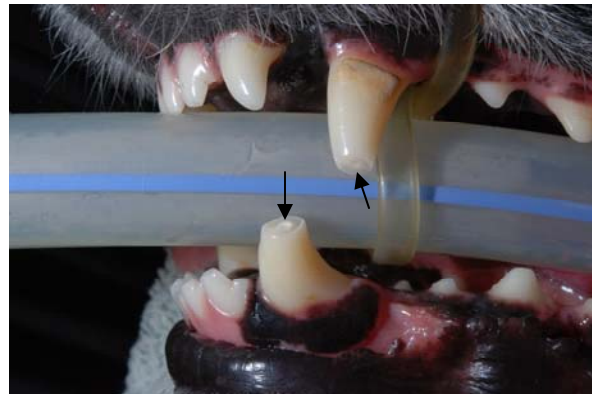
The canines and the first three premolars on the right are abraded



The canines and the first three premolars on the left are abraded.



The rapid abrasion resulted in pulp exposure of the canine teeth.



The abrasion occurred more slowly in this dog and tertiary dentin was deposited to protect the pulp.

Abrasion is the mechanical wear that occurs on the teeth by means other than tooth-to-tooth contact. Usually abrasion results from chewing on hard objects like rocks, bones, cages, etc. In this case, the abrasion resulted from chronic tennis ball chewing. The fibers of a tennis ball can retain particles of dirt and sand. This causes the ball to act like a scouring pad on the teeth. If the abrasion occurs slowly, reparative or tertiary dentin is deposited to protect the pulp. However, if the abrasion occurs rapidly pulp exposure will occur. Once the pulp is exposed, extraction or endodontic treatment is required. A sharp dental explorer tip can be used to help determine if the pulp is exposed or if stained tertiary dentin is present.