

## Case of the Month

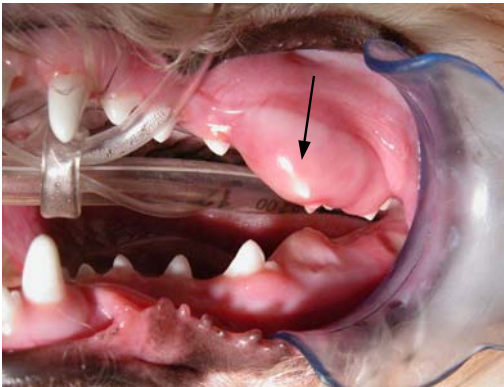
### June 2006

#### History and Signalment:

A 6 month old Bichon Frise presented for an ovariohysterectomy. No problems were noted by the owner.

#### Physical Exam:

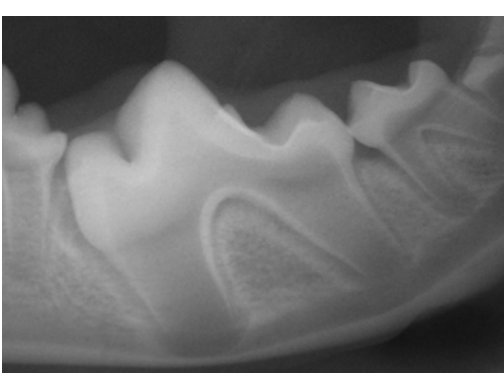
The oral exam showed a thick gingival bulge where the maxillary 4<sup>th</sup> premolar and molars should be. Deciduous premolars were present on the bulge. Another similar bulge was found in the location of the mandibular molars. The problem was bilateral.



Fibrous gingiva (arrow) covering permanent teeth.



Radiograph of left maxillary premolars and molars.



Radiograph of left mandibular molars.

#### Procedure:

Intraoral radiographs were taken which showed the permanent dentition within the gingival bulge. A scalpel blade was used to excise the thick gingival covering (operculum) to allow the impacted teeth to erupt. A 12-fluted bur was used to contour the gingival margin and control bleeding.

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**Immediate post-op**



**1 month post-op**

**Discussion:**

Soft tissue impactions are fairly common. Small breed dogs seem to be affected more often. They can occur with permanent and/or deciduous dentition. It is important to treat it as soon as it is recognized to allow the teeth to develop and erupt properly. Radiographs must be taken before the operculectomy. Treatment involves removing enough of the fibrous tissue to allow the teeth to erupt. Removing too much tissue could affect the periodontal health of the permanent tooth.

**Next Month:**

Feline Gingivostomatitis

