

## Case of the Month

### September 2006

**History and Signalment:** 14 week old Shih-tzu presented for routine vaccinations. The puppy was doing well. No signs of pain noticed and eating well.

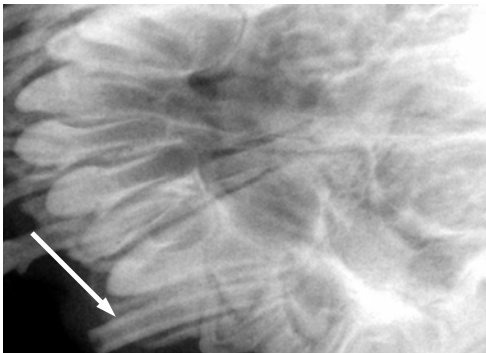
**Physical Exam/Diagnosis:** The deciduous maxillary left canine tooth was fractured at the gumline. The pulp was exposed. The owner did not know how or when fracture occurred.



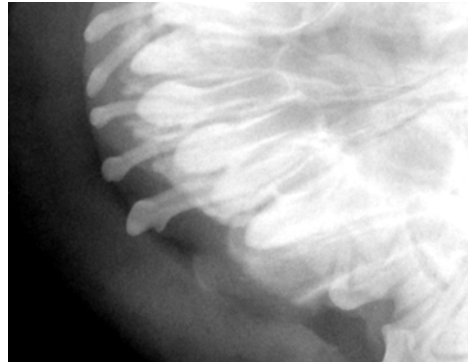
Photo showing the fractured canine tooth.



Photo of mouth after surgical extraction.



Radiograph showing the fractured canine (arrow) and unerupted teeth.



Post-extraction radiograph.

**Treatment:** Extraction is the preferred treatment in this case. With the pulp exposed it is very painful even though they may not appear to be in pain. We should not be telling the client that no treatment is necessary because it is a baby tooth that will fall out on it's own. An appointment should be scheduled as soon as possible for extraction. Besides continued pain, if left untreated the tooth will become necrotic and possibly damage the developing permanent tooth. Intraoral radiographs are needed to locate the delicate unerupted teeth prior to extracting.

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