

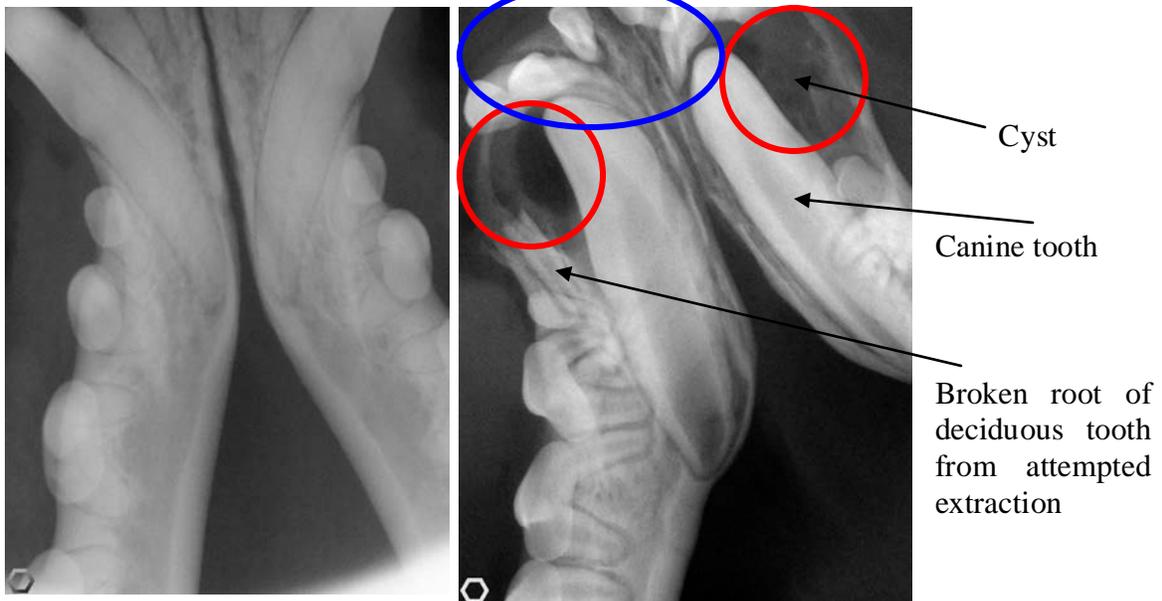
ADULT TEETH THAT DID NOT ERUPT PROPERLY



This little cutie is Violet. She is a 7 month old Boston terrier. Many of her adult teeth did not come in all the way and her lower canine teeth didn't erupt at all. When we spayed Violet at 6 months of age all her adult teeth should have been in already but the lower adult canines were nowhere to be seen, and her baby canine teeth were still present when they should have fallen out. Dr. Boss attempted to remove the baby canines, to get them out of the way so the adult teeth could erupt properly.

She was unable to remove the roots of those baby teeth entirely and fluid came out when she attempted it. There should never be fluid in the jaw or around the teeth. An x-ray revealed that the adult canine teeth were stuck within the jaw and pointing the wrong way.

We consulted with our local veterinary dental specialist, Dr. Dale Kressin, about what to do. He told us that the cystic fluid building up, where the malpositioned teeth should be, would eat away at the jawbone and destroy it, so those retained teeth needed to be removed.



A normal lower jaw is shown on the left, with the canine teeth and the incisors at the proper angle. On the right is Violet's x-ray with the large canine teeth sitting inside the jawbone and pointing toward the incisor teeth (in the blue oval). Those incisors are being pushed out of position. The black areas on each side are the cysts (circled in red) where there was fluid build-up.

A few weeks later, Violet went under anesthesia again at the dentist's office and more x-rays were taken. The lower incisor teeth needed to be extracted because of bone destruction from the cysts. The first three lower premolar teeth on each side were removed in order to get to the malpositioned canine teeth so those could be removed as well. Altogether, Violet lost 14 teeth, 7 on each side, plus the root remains from the baby canines that were fused into the bone. All this was expensive as well as sad for the dog, though she is recovering well from her dental surgery.

Violet's dental problems were inherited and she also was born with a cleft palate, another genetic abnormality. Chances are good she has relatives who also have dental abnormalities. Many breeds of both dogs and cats have genetic diseases related to the teeth and the mouth, so dental health is a key thing to research before you purchase a puppy or kitten.