

Root Canal Treatment

Root canal treatment is indicated when your pet has a fractured, infected or a dead tooth. The procedure for pets is the same as it is for humans. This non-invasive procedure involves accessing the pulp cavity through the fracture site or through a hole drilled into the tooth. We then remove the dead, infected pulp and thoroughly and sterilely clean out the cavity. It is then filled with a biologically inert root canal cement and a restoration is placed at the surface to prevent bacterial invasion. In some instances, complete coverage of the tooth crown with a full metal restoration (cap/crown) is recommended. This treatment is less invasive than surgical extraction and allows the animal to keep the function and structure of the tooth.

Vital Pulpotomy

A vital pulpotomy differs from root canal therapy in that we only remove a small portion of the pulp at the top of the chamber while the rest stays healthy and vital. By performing this treatment, we hope to continue maturation and development of the tooth. In cases of young adults (approximately 3 years and younger) and with 48-72 hours of the fracture, this procedure is preferred in order to preserve healthy pulp and allow further development of the tooth. In a very young animal, the time frame in which the procedure can be performed may extend to 2 or 3 weeks after the trauma.