

Feline Resorptive Lesions

Overview

Feline resorptive lesions, also called odontoclastic resorptive lesions, are similar to cavities. These lesions are erosions of the tooth and occur at or near the cemento-enamel junction, at the base of the tooth. The cause of the lesions is unknown and they are quite common in cats, with reports as high as 67 percent of felines being afflicted. The most commonly affected breeds are the Siamese, Abyssinian and Persian.

The incidence of resorptive lesions tends to increase as the cat ages. These lesions are most often found on the molars and premolars and are placed into one of four stages. Stage one is an early small lesion that is often undetected and doesn't cause any pain. Stage two is associated with some discomfort and the lesions have not yet invaded the pulp cavity. Stage three lesions extend to the pulp cavity and cause pain. Stage four is the most advanced and the tooth roots are completely altered by erosion.

Diagnosis and Treatment Notes:

- Feline resorptive lesions are generally diagnosed with a thorough history and physical examination, including a thorough oral exam.
- Treatment depends on the severity of the disease, your individual pet, and your veterinarian. Pets with feline resorptive lesions usually benefit initially from a dental cleaning and polishing. If this is not effective, removal of the tooth is performed. Discuss treatment details when your pet is diagnosed with this condition.

What to Watch for*:

- Mouth pain
- Poor appetite
- Change in eating behavior
- Change in food preference from dry to soft food

**Please notify us if you notice any of the above signs or if you have any questions!*

