

PAWSITIVELY SPEAKING

News and Information from  Central Texas Animal Hospital

Laser Therapy for treating pet's ailments

Laser Therapy – it sounds like some space-age light saber activity. In reality, it's technology that we use every day to help our patients heal.

Here's one such story....

Simba is an adorable fluffy 4 year old little lab mix. He had a lesion on his left wrist that was hairless, the skin was thickened, and the area was reddened and moist. Dr. Hill diagnosed him with an infected lick granuloma.

Lick granulomas can be very frustrating as they are difficult to completely heal and can recur. Part of their difficulty is that there may be more than one cause, and the underlying cause can be difficult to determine. Bacterial infections are almost always present, mostly because of the bacteria in the mouth when licking. However, bacteria is never what started the issue, it just jumps in and makes things worse. The cause, or causes, can be:

1. Anything that starts an itch: splinter or insect bite

2. Allergies, food or environmental
3. Pain in the area
4. Anxiety
5. Boredom
6. Obsessive-compulsive behavior

Treatment is aimed at the underlying cause, or causes. Treatments can be antibiotics, antihistamines, steroids, behavior medications, e-collars to prevent licking, and laser treatments. If infection is involved, long-term antibiotics may be needed. Frequently, underlying causes are found by treating and rechecking to see the response. If the infection is cleared, and pet keeps licking, further causes will be considered.

Back to Simba. Simba was treated with 3 weeks of antibiotics by mouth, an antihistamine-steroid combination pill, and twice weekly laser treatments at our clinic. He was rechecked at this point, and was improving a lot, but still not completely healed. He was prescribed an additional 3 weeks of antibiotics and twice weekly laser treatments. At an 8 week



recheck the lesion had resolved and the area had regrown hair and was barely noticeable!

THE BENEFITS OF LASER TREATMENTS



Other conditions that we treat with laser therapy:

- Wounds
- Allergies
- Arthritis
- Cystitis
- Infections
- Post-Surgical Healing/
Pain Relief

Cats frequently suffer from Feline Resorptive Lesions

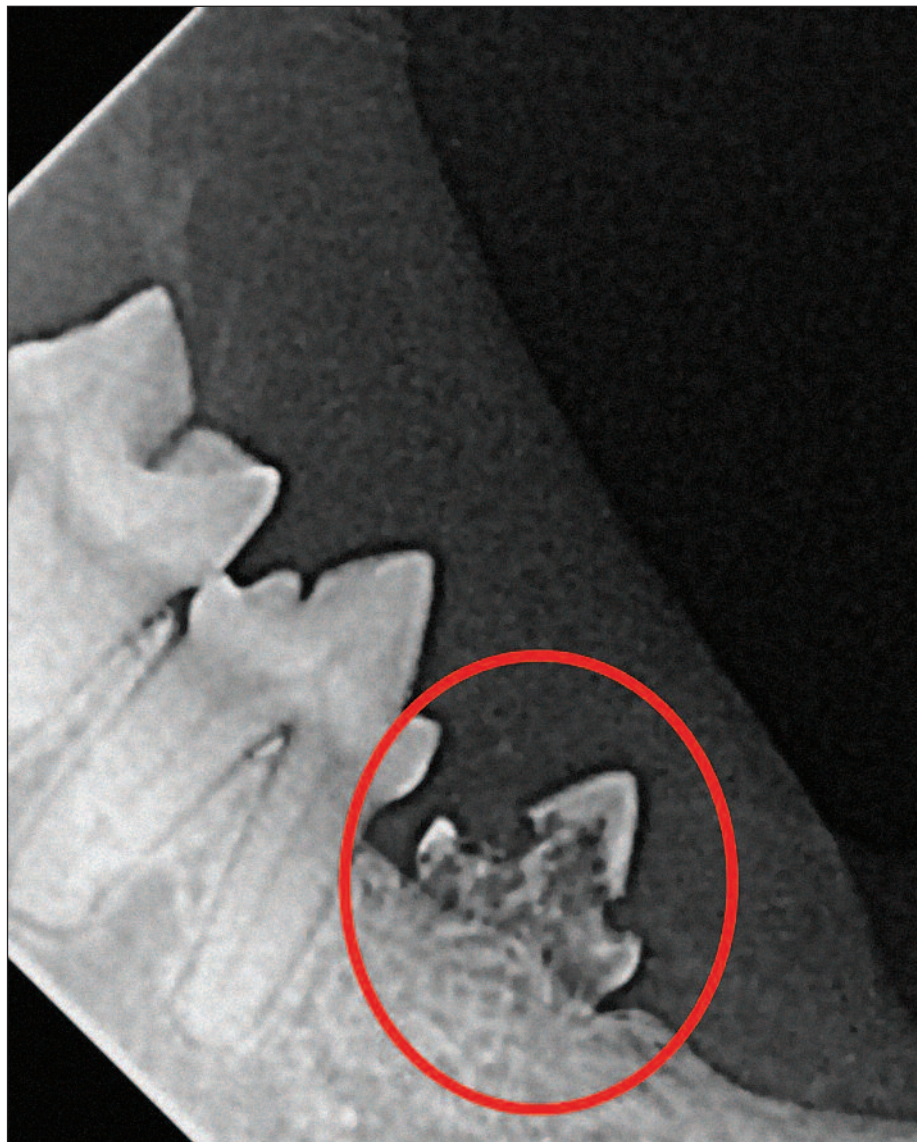
It is not completely known why cats frequently suffer from resorptive lesions – a condition in which the dentin of one or multiple teeth erodes. The damage associated with this erosion may spread to the entire tooth, from root to crown.

The condition can be difficult to diagnose, but changes in appetite can be a symptom. Sometimes, a cat will swallow his food without chewing, or suddenly prefer soft food. Generally, the condition would have to be severe to cause a cat to stop eating.

In some cases, it will be obvious that a cat is in pain when it bites down on an affected tooth or if the tooth is touched by the owner or veterinarian. A better indication may be given by observing the cat's behavior while eating. He might tilt his head or chew only on one side of the mouth. Kibble might fall out of his mouth while eating if he's suffering from a resorptive lesion.

If you or your veterinarian suspect that your cat is suffering from a resorptive lesion, the only way to confirm the diagnosis and treat the condition is with a thorough dental evaluation and intra-oral radiographs, both of which are performed under anesthesia. At a minimum, your cat's mouth needs to be examined by a veterinarian at least annually.

Feline Resorptive Lesions (Tooth Resorption) is common, affecting 75% of cats over the age of 5.



Socks and Eddie graduate, now “Official Therapy Pet Pals”



Congratulations to Socks and Eddie Carpenter and their family! Socks and Eddie completed their training and passed certification to become Therapy Pet Pals!

To join or support, contact:
Therapy Pet Pals of Texas, Inc.
3930 Bee Cave Road, Suite C
Austin, TX 78746
(512) 347-1984
<http://www.therappetpals.org/>



Socks and Eddie

Have you adopted a new pet?

Has a new pet recently joined your family? Here are some things that you'll want to consider:

- Microchip your pet ASAP. It costs less than \$50 and includes the lifetime registration.
- Pet Insurance. Starting a policy when your pet is young and healthy will benefit you and him.
- We offer a complimentary physical exam within 30 days of adoption from a shelter or rescue group.

Top Pet Insurance Claims for Puppies and Kittens

PUPPIES

Accidents/Injuries

1. Lacerations
2. Bite Wounds
3. Swallowed objects

Illnesses

1. Ear infections
2. Stomach problems
3. Skin irritations

KITTENS

Accidents/Injuries

1. Bite wounds
2. Swallowed objects
3. Back leg fractures

Illness

1. Diarrhea
2. Parasites
3. URI

TARTAR WARS

CTAH staff attacks the Dark Side of Dental Care

Your pet's dental condition is difficult to evaluate because:

- Pets can't tell us how they are feeling. In fact, in most cases, they will hide their pain.
- Most dental disease is below the gumline.
- Tartar that has built up in your pet's mouth blocks the teeth, preventing the

veterinarian from being able to see teeth and gums clearly.

- Some pets won't let us look in their mouths while they are awake.

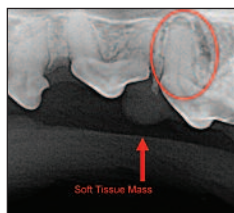
Evaluating your pet's dental health without anesthesia would be like you walking into your dentist's office and smiling (or growling) and asking for an opinion.



In addition to treating dental disease, there can be other unexpected benefits to a complete oral exam.

Harley...

when Dr. Hill examined him under anesthesia, she found a soft tissue mass. We were able to remove it during the dental procedure.



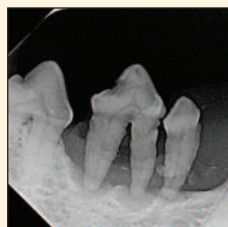
Snowflake...

While the regular physical exam revealed moderate dental tartar, the radiograph shows tooth root abscess and bone loss.

Manny's Saga

Not all dental disease is as obvious or extreme as this case. Manny is an (approximately) 11 year old Beagle mix who is currently a foster with Hound Rescue. He recently had to have 8 teeth extracted.

This dental radiograph shows us that Manny had root abscesses and significant bone loss around these teeth and that these teeth needed to be removed.



HOUND RESCUE

Interested in fostering or adopting a hound?
<http://www.houndrescue.com/>
info@houndrescue.com





Central Texas Animal Hospital

"Serving Texans for more than a century" (In dog years)
 1200 Pecan Street West • Pflugerville, TX 78660
 512.251.BARK • www.ctah.biz



Hours:

Monday – Friday: 7–6 • Saturday: 8 – Noon

For after-hours emergencies contact:
Emergency Animal Hospital of NW Austin
 512-331-6121
 or
Emergency Pet Care of Round Rock
 512-961-5200



- With our PetDesk App, you can:**
- Request Appointments
 - Access vaccine records
 - Request Medicine Refills
 - Access our online pharmacy

Central Texas Animal Hospital
 1200 Pecan Street West
 Pflugerville, TX 78660

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20% Off of Basic Dental Exam/Cleaning Package (save \$40) January and February				
20% off of Vaccines Mon – Thurs				
Professional Cat and Dog Grooming by Janice Tuesday – Thursday by appointment				
Saturday	Open every Saturday 8-noon			

Offer expires 2/28/17. Does not apply to other tests/treatments/products.

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pet's appointment.**