



HALE VETERINARY CLINIC

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DENTAL AND ORAL SURGERY FOR PETS SINCE 1991

Here is a short presentation on the successful use of Ball Therapy to treat lingually displaced mandibular canine teeth in a mastiff dog. For introduction, have a look at this link explaining Ball Therapy - http://www.toothvet.ca/PDFfiles/ball_therapy.pdf.

I never saw this dog myself. I assisted the primary care veterinarian in the management of this case via email. She sent me the patient details and photographs. I made my recommendations and a few weeks later she sent me more photographs. These first photos were taken by the owner when the dog was just over five months of age.



In this series of images, we can see that the jaw length relationship is normal (length of mandibles relative to maxilla) with a proper “scissors” occlusion of the incisor teeth. There is symmetry with the center-line of the mandibles directly below the center line of the maxilla. The problem is that the lower adult canines are displaced distally (too far back in the mandibles) and are trapped on the palatal side of the upper canine teeth. So as these lower adult canine teeth continued to erupt, we needed them to drift forward and then lipward. Below are the images sent from the owner when the dog was just shy of seven months of age.



This was a fantastic outcome. Jaw length-relationship and symmetry were maintained and the lower canines are now placed just where we wanted them to be. Case closed. And all for the cost of a road-hockey ball.

Keep in mind, this approach does not always work but it is certainly worth a try with proper case selection.

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