

PULPITIS

- **Pulpitis is the inflammation of the pulp, or the inner part of the tooth that contains the vital structures such as the nerve and blood supply of the tooth**
- The cause of pulpitis is often trauma to the tooth such as from catching or chewing on objects
- The canine tooth, or fang tooth, is the most commonly affected tooth due to its length and position in the front of the mouth
- The inflammation of the leads to swelling within the pulp cavity, and the resulting pressure can lead to irreversible damage to the inner structures, resulting in a dead tooth
- Affected teeth present with color changes, indicating the stage of disease:
 - Pink reveals recent trauma and is often still medically treatable
 - Purple color appears shortly after the pulp begins to die – root canal treatment or extraction is indicated
 - Grey indicates a dead tooth with a necrotic (long dead) pulp – this tooth will need to be extracted

