Retained Deciduous (Baby) Teeth

A dog should have lost all of his baby teeth by about 8 months of age, a cat by about 6-7 months. The deciduous teeth should generally fall out as they are being pushed by the permanent tooth coming in behind them. If this does not happen, the tooth is called a persistent baby tooth and needs to be addressed.

Persistent baby teeth should be extracted as soon as possible to avoid shifting and displacement of the erupting permanent tooth. This can result in damage and misalignment of the permanent teeth which predisposes the pet to periodontal disease and oral pain.

Careful removal of the baby teeth is important to prevent root fracture and trauma to the permanent tooth near it.