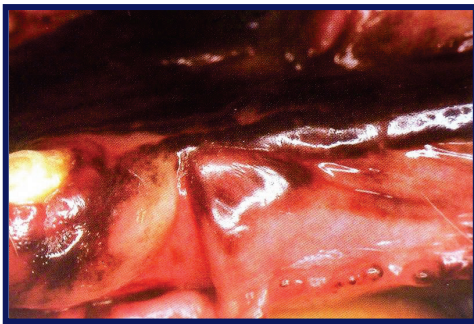


## The Importance of Dental Radiographs (X-Rays)

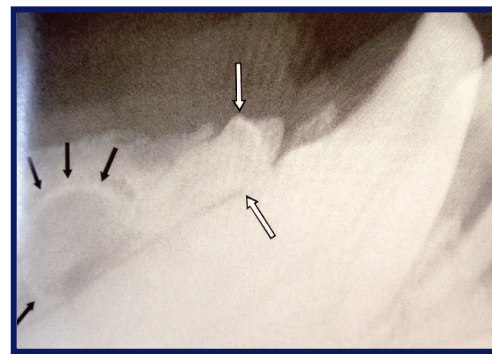


- Dental radiographs (x-rays) are one of the most important diagnostic tools available to properly treat your pet.
- They allow the internal anatomy of the teeth, the roots and the bone that surrounds the roots to be examined.
- **60% of the pet's tooth is invisible as it is located below the gum line, yet this is exactly where most of the problems occur.**
- Unless the tooth roots and surrounding bone are examined via x-ray, significant and often painful problems are often overlooked
- Fractured teeth, tooth root abscesses, tooth resorption (very common in cats), and bone loss requiring extraction are all problems that can be missed without x-rays

**Below a few examples where dental x-rays were vital in eliminating pain and disease in the mouth:**



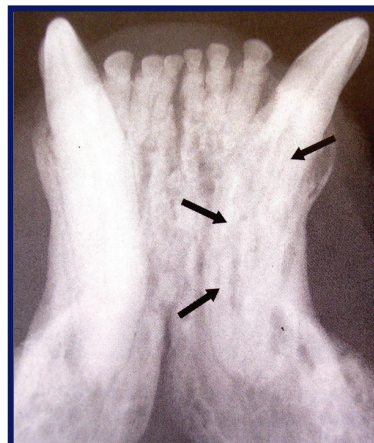
Normal appearing gum line in a dog with what appears to be just a missing tooth. The owner assumed that the dog lost the tooth as a puppy or just doesn't have one there.



X-ray of the area reveals that the "missing" tooth is present below the gum line and just never erupted (white arrows). However, as a result of this a large cyst has formed at its root (black arrows). These dentigerous cysts are painful and weaken the jaw, and surgery was necessary to remove it along with the unerupted tooth.



Normal appearing fang tooth in a cat, with just a small area of puffy gum tissue (white arrow)



X-ray of the area reveals that this fang tooth is almost entirely eaten away from the inside by a process called tooth resorption (see black arrows). The other normal fang tooth can be seen on the left side. Tooth resorption can be common in cats and is extremely painful. Most of the lesions are below the gum line and not visible without x-rays. Affected teeth need to be extracted.