



Lance

"Lance" is a 3 year old, neutered, male German Shepherd. He was seen in early August for a very painful swelling on the right side of his muzzle. This swelling was so uncomfortable that Lance had to be sedated to further assess what was going on in his mouth. Under anesthesia, severe inflammation and swelling were found above several of Lance's upper right teeth, including his enormous canine tooth. The canine tooth on that side was fractured at the tip and x-rays revealed a large tooth root abscess. At this point it was obvious that Lance needed to have his upper right canine tooth extracted, but the gingiva appeared so abnormal and unhealthy, there was concern for cancer.

At this point, biopsies were taken of Lance's inflamed gum tissue and submitted for histopathology. This was done as a first step because it did not appear that the tissue was healthy enough to heal after major oral surgery. Luckily for Lance, the biopsy came back as severe gingivitis and his gums healed tremendously on just a few days of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories and the swelling over his muzzle almost completely resolved.

The following month, Lance was again placed under general anesthesia for oral surgery to remove his right maxillary canine tooth. This is a major undertaking in a dog of his size as the root of the canine tooth is actually longer and thicker than the crown of the tooth! In Lance's case, the tooth was not even loose. A flap was made in Lance's gums and the root was etched out with a special drill. The tooth was then very carefully extracted and his gums were sewn closed over the large hole. Even though the abscess had improved on antibiotics, this tooth was a ticking time bomb as evidenced by the fact that the entire tip of the root was diseased and black in color.

Two sedated and lengthy procedures on a dog of his size (100 lbs!) resulted in a big bill for Lance. With the help of EMPATH who jumped in to help out with the case, Lance is now back to 100% and eating great.