



Animal Dental Care

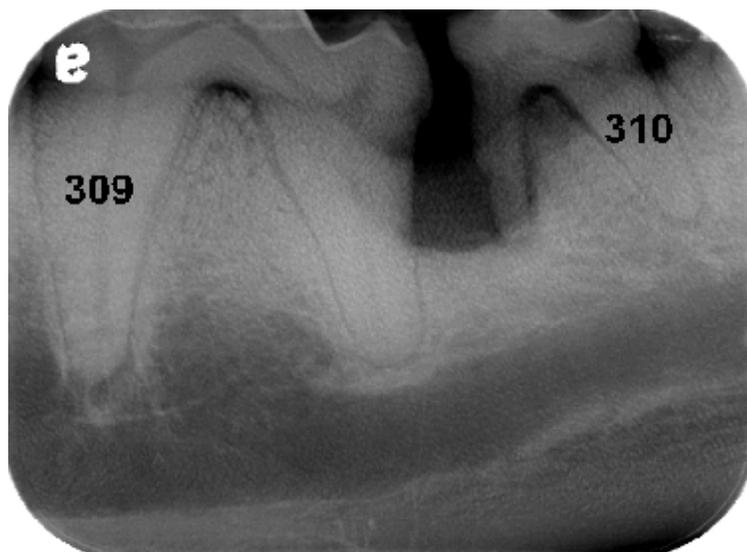
Ian J. Haws, DVM, FAVD, DAVDC

SMALL ANIMAL DENTISTRY: FIFTY KEY QUESTIONS

Module 4 Oral Radiography

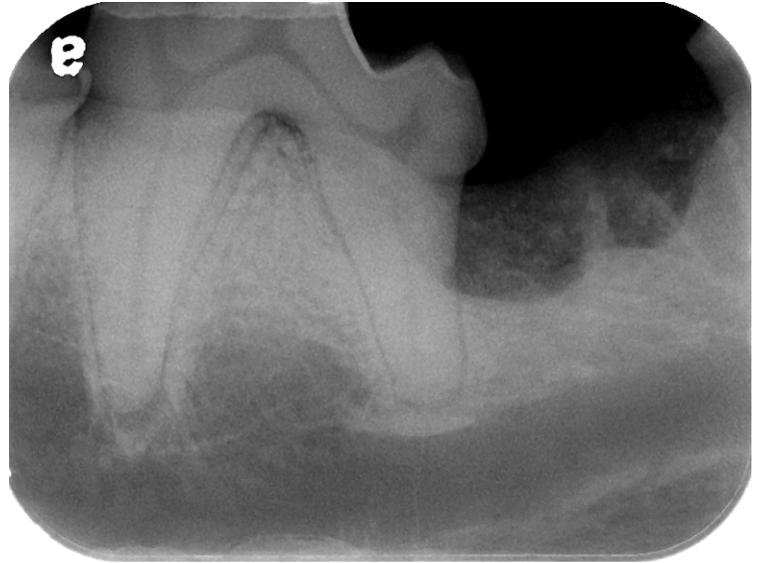
21. What are the indications for oral radiography?

- oral radiography is indicated for the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up assessment for all disciplines in veterinary dentistry
- oral radiographs permit detailed images that allow the diagnosis of the degree of bone loss in periodontal disease, and follow-up assessment for periodontal therapy



Left lateral mandibular radiograph of periodontal disease for 309 and 310 in a 9 year old spayed female Springer spaniel. There is less than 50 percent attachment loss for the distal root of 309, and almost 100 percent attachment loss for the mesial root of 310.

Left lateral mandibular radiograph for the 9 year old spayed female Springer spaniel.
Extraction of 310 was indicated and following open root planing for the distal root for 309, a canine bone origin allograft was placed in the alveolus for 310 to create new attachment for 309.



Left lateral mandibular radiograph for the 9 year old spayed female Springer spaniel 6 months following oral and periodontal surgery.

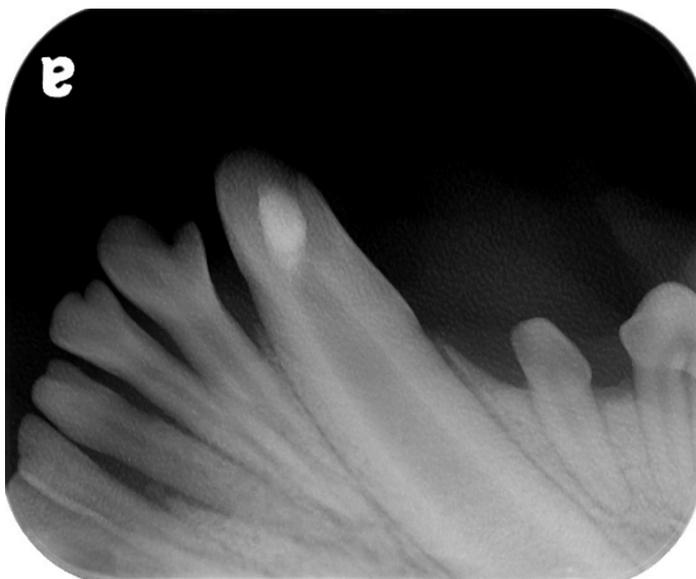
There is excellent bone healing creating new attachment for 309.

- it is essential to assess radicular and periapical pathology for teeth that may have endodontic disease to determine if endodontic therapy and possible crown restoration is indicated, or if extraction is the best treatment option
- it is then needed to assess endodontic therapy
- it is inadvisable to do vital pulp therapy without being able to image the apex to determine whether it is open or closed, and to determine if there is radicular or apical pathology present
- the same holds true for root canal therapy

- when doing a root canal, x-rays are needed to assess whether the file is to the internal apical delta, and to assess if the fill or obturation of the canal is complete

Rostral mandibular radiograph for an 8 month old female spayed Labrador retriever. She had a complicated crown fracture for 304 (arrow) two days previously when she was accidentally hit by a hockey stick while playing road hockey.

Note the apex for 304 has a small radiolucent opening at this age.



Completed vital pulp therapy to salvage 304 as a living tooth for the Labrador retriever.

Note there are two layers of the restoration visible. The outer more radiodense layer is a composite, and the inner more radiolucent layer is a compomer.