

Nasopharyngeal Tooth Foreign Body Related to Periodontitis in a Dog

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Signalment: A 8-year-old, intact female, Shih-tzu was presented with 2-week history of a cough, nasal discharge and progressive inappetence. On presentation, constant open-mouth breathing with stertor and blood-tinged mucopurulent discharge from the left nostril were observed. Examination of the oral cavity revealed a missing right lower first premolar tooth, severe periodontal disease with attachment of plaque, calculus and halitosis

Results: Computed tomography showed bone-density, retropharyngeal foreign body. The foreign body was removed by posterior rhinoscopy using grasping forceps. The foreign body was a tooth covered by a thick calculus, which was a missing right lower first premolar tooth. There has been no recurrence of clinical signs or complications associated with the procedures.

Clinical relevance: This is interesting case because a tooth foreign body inside nasopharynx is very rare in dogs. However, this can occur in old dogs with severe periodontitis. Therefore, a nasopharyngeal foreign body, especially a tooth, should be considered as a differential diagnosis for chronic upper respiratory signs concurrent with periodontitis.

Key words: nasal discharge, nasopharyngeal foreign body, posterior rhinoscopy, periodontitis, dog

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