

Client Education Series: Feline Stomatitis

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Specialty Dentistry for Cats & Dogs
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Definitions

“itis” = inflammation

Gingivitis is inflammation of the gingiva or gum tissue, localized around the teeth



Mucositis is inflammation of the mucosa or lining inside the mouth



Stoma means opening and **Stomatitis** is inflammation inside the oral cavity



Biopsies are sometimes taken to confirm a diagnosis of stomatitis and rule out other inflammatory diseases or neoplasia (oral cancer)

Stomatitis- cause is currently unknown

Associated with FeLV/FIV - 2 feline viruses that affect the immune system but many stomatitis cases are negative for these diseases

Abnormal or over-reactive immune response to plaque and bacteria

Less than 2% of the feline population has stomatitis

Characterized by severe oral inflammation - of the entire mouth or just in the back of the mouth by the throat

Painful! Signs include bad breath, drooling, pawing at the mouth, vocalization and running from food, hiding, decreased grooming



Stomatitis is a disease of lifelong management

Treatment of this frustrating and serious condition is targeted at:



1) Reducing the “triggers” for the Immune System

Antibiotics reduce the oral bacteria

Dental cleanings & home care reduce plaque on teeth but only temporarily

**Extraction of teeth to remove surfaces for plaque to stick to and mechanically provide relief from inflamed tissue rubbing across tooth surfaces

2) Calming the abnormal Immune System

Supplements: omega fatty acids, CBD oil/treats

Medications: Doxycycline/niacinamide, cyclosporine, steroids, pain relief

Future treatments may involve stem cells and targeting the immune system

Extractions to help manage feline stomatitis

Either full mouth (all teeth removed) or

Caudal mouth (teeth behind the canines or fang teeth) if inflammation only in back of mouth

$\frac{2}{3}$ of cats respond to extractions and need no further medications

$\frac{1}{3}$ are better, but still need ongoing medication

7% of the $\frac{1}{3}$ do not improve with any treatment

Nerve blocks and pain medications are used to reduce discomfort while healing post procedure

