

# Client Education Series: Oral Masses in Dogs and Cats

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# Types of growths in the mouth:

Benign: Non-harmful but can grow and possibly cause issues with eating, chewing, bleeding, etc.

Malignant: Harmful and destructive with potential to spread to other areas of the body

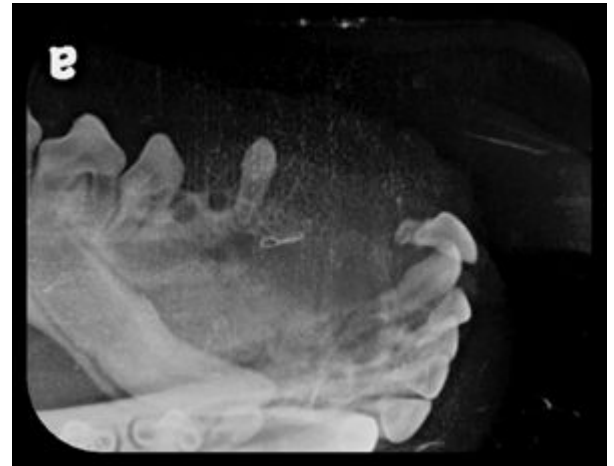
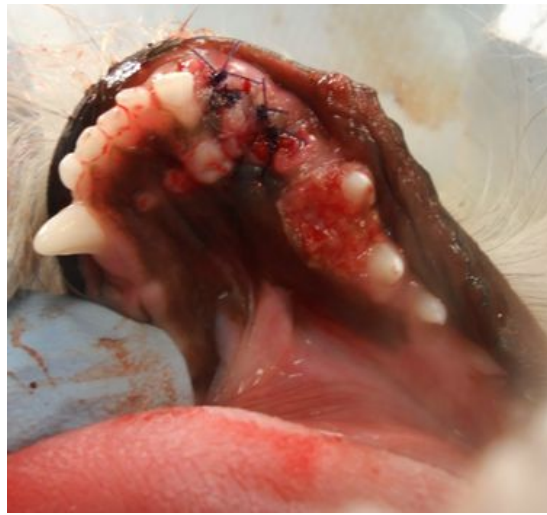
\*Tumors in cats can be very sneaky and sometimes a “growth” is not visible but there is still destruction of tissue resulting in ulcerations or holes (called fistula) in the mouth



# Biopsy and dental radiographs are taken to determine a diagnosis

It is important to understand WHAT we are dealing with, WHERE the mass is to figure out a plan moving forward and what treatment options are available.

With more aggressive tumors, consultation with oncology and surgery are sometimes indicated.



# Gingival Hyperplasia - Benign enlargements)

Very Common in Boxer Dogs - it is genetic in the Boxer Breed and it will slowly regrow after surgery (usually over years)

Can be seen secondary to certain medications (cyclosporine, amlodipine, some anti-arrhythmic heart medications)

Can be throughout the mouth (generalized) or focal only over certain areas

Gingivectomies (surgical removal of gum tissue) are performed to try and get the tissue back to normal contour. The tissue is biopsied to confirm the diagnosis. It is important to keep the mouth as clean as possible to reduce gingival irritation.

