



DENTAL CROWN TREATMENT

What are the indications for a dental crown?

The most conventional reason veterinarians use crowns is to protect a tooth from trauma. Both live teeth and teeth that have had root canal therapy may be candidates for crown treatment. Teeth with developmental abnormalities that cause weak enamel and increased risk for fractures, may also be prime candidates for crown treatment. Once you decide to pursue getting a crown for your pet, there are several steps involved.

What are the steps involved?

While anesthetized, your pet's tooth will be properly contoured by removing a small amount of enamel to allow a snug, proper fit for the crown. Next, we will make impressions of the individual tooth and of the surrounding teeth. After this process is complete, the impressions and molds of your pet's tooth will be sent to a crown fabrication laboratory.



The laboratory typically takes two weeks to create a metal crown that fits over the prepared tooth. A second brief anesthetized procedure will be scheduled for your pet where the crown will then be cemented in place.

What types of dental crowns are available?

There are two types of dental crowns commonly placed in dogs. The white is more pleasing to some owners, and the titanium is thinner. Your veterinarian can help you decide between the two.



Titanium Crown



White Zirconium Crown

What home care is required for dental crowns?

After placement of a crown your pet will have full function of this tooth. They can chew on any APPROPRIATE toy or surface. We do not recommend tug of war games or hard chew toys such as real bones, antlers and hard plastic toys. Crowns should be gently brushed like any other tooth.

Remember:

- Crowns are used to protect teeth that have been fractured or have enamel defects
- Crown preparation and adhesion requires two anesthetic episodes
- Home care such as teeth brushing is recommended to keep the tooth's supporting tissues healthy