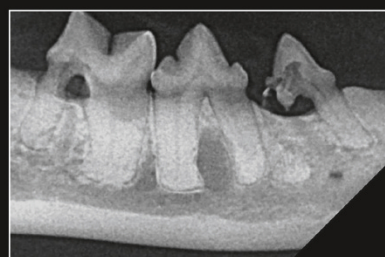


Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult
Clinical Companion



Small Animal Dentistry

Third Edition



Edited by Heidi B. Lobprise



WILEY Blackwell

**Blackwell's Five-Minute
Veterinary Consult**
Clinical Companion

Small Animal Dentistry

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Clinical Companion

Small Animal Dentistry

Third Edition

Edited by

Heidi B. Lobprise, DVM, DAVDC

**Main Street Veterinary Hospital and Dental Clinic
Flower Mound, Texas, USA**

**Cibolo Creek Veterinary Hospital
Boerne, Texas, USA**

WILEY Blackwell

This edition first published 2021
© 2021 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Edition History

1st edition © Blackwell Publishing; 2nd edition © 2012 by John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

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Registered Office

John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, USA

Editorial Office

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lobprise, Heidi B., editor.

Title: Blackwell's five-minute veterinary consult clinical companion :
small animal dentistry / edited by Heidi B. Lobprise.

Description: Third edition. | Hoboken, NJ : Wiley, 2021. | Series:
Blackwell's five-minute veterinary consult | Includes bibliographical
references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021014070 (print) | LCCN 2021014071 (ebook) | ISBN
9781119584339 (paperback) | ISBN 9781119584384 (adobe pdf) | ISBN
9781119584391 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Veterinary dentistry--Handbooks, manuals, etc.

Classification: LCC SF867 .L62 2021 (print) | LCC SF867 (ebook) | DDC
636.08976--dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021014070>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021014071>

Cover Design: Wiley

Cover Images: © Heidi B. Lobprise

Set in 10/12pts Berkeley by SPi Global, Pondicherry, India

To the late Robert B. Wiggs, for getting me started in dentistry.

To the amazing dental team at Main Street Veterinary Dental Clinic – I will miss you!

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Preface

This updated third edition of *Five-Minute Veterinary Consult Clinical Companion: Small Animal Dentistry* has undergone a moderate reorganization to keep it practical and up-to-date for general practitioners looking for a helpful reference guide in daily practice.

Some changes include an enhanced pain management chapter with additional images for local blocks, an equipment and instrument chapter with tips on sharpening and maintenance, and two chapters coalescing pertinent data on less common malignant and benign masses. The epulis chapter has been replaced by one on odontogenic tumors, to provide a better understanding of this group of diseases. The tooth fracture chapter has been upgraded to encompass tooth–dentoalveolar injuries, while the chapters on squamous cell carcinoma and salivary gland disorders have been condensed into one chapter for each broader topic. The feline chapters include the updated nomenclature of tooth resorption and feline chronic gingivostomatitis, with a separate chapter for more general stomatitis and oral ulceration that includes canine issues as well.

Some less common or integral subjects will only be found in the second edition, as transillumination, tight lip syndrome, bird tongue (microglossia), and halitosis have been covered in other topics. The chapter on other soft tissue disorders has brought in information from masticatory muscle myositis, trigeminal neuritis, and eosinophilic granuloma complex while adding other areas not covered previously. I have also deleted the “Business of Dentistry” section to concentrate on specific clinical issues frequently encountered.

The appendices have been expanded to include a position statement and resources to help respond to the issue of anesthesia-free dental procedures. There is also a listing of internet resources including the 2019 AAHA Dental Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats and the WSAVA Global Dental Guidelines. Links to videos of some procedures will be available on the website.

Overall, I hope this new edition will continue to be a well-used resource for technicians and veterinarians alike. I am very thankful for all the contributors, past and present. Thanks also to Drs. Frank Smith and Larry Tilley for continuing their support of the *Five-Minute Veterinary Consult Clinical Companion* series and the staff of John Wiley & Sons for their limitless patience in helping me with “rounding up all the cats.” I have been so blessed throughout the years with the opportunities God has given me, including my wonderfully patient husband, Joe.

Heidi B. Lobprise

Acknowledgments



Portions of chapters of this book have been provided by material contributed in previous editions and from related topics in *Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult: Canine and Feline* by the following authors:

James Anthony
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Jenna H. Burton
Elizabeth R. Drake
Timothy M. Fan



About the Companion Website

The companion website for this book is at

www.wiley.com/go/lobprise/dentistry



The website contains:

- Handouts
- Dental Charts
- Anesthesia Charts
- Video Clips

Scan this QR code to visit the companion website.



Diagnostics



Oral Examination and Charting



INDICATIONS

- “Every mouth, every time”: a complete oral examination should be performed whenever possible to detect lesions as early as possible.
- Make it a part of puppy and kitten exams to start a lifetime of oral care:
 - Deciduous occlusion.
 - Broken or damaged teeth.
 - Proper eruption sequence.
 - Brushing/home care instruction.
- Continue with oral examinations at each visit, making oral care a cornerstone of a wellness program.
- An alert oral exam can give a quick overview of oral conditions in most patients.
- A complete oral examination can only be performed under general anesthesia and will include physical examination of the oral and dental structures, periodontal probing, transillumination, and intraoral radiography.

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES (see Chapter 9)

Alert Examination

- Adequate but gentle restraint
- Good lighting
- Charts
- Gloves

Complete Examination

- General anesthetic components, including monitoring
- Good lighting
- Soft mouth blocks (gauze, spiral perm rollers): do not use spring-loaded mouth gags, which can damage teeth or strain the temporomandibular joint unnecessarily, and can cause blindness in cats when they compress the maxillary artery
- Magnification (usually needed): loupes
- Periodontal probe/explorer
- Mirror (Figure 1.1)
- Transilluminator
- Charts

Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult Clinical Companion: Small Animal Dentistry, Third Edition. Edited by Heidi B. Lobprise.

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Companion website: www.wiley.com/go/lobprise/dentistry



■ **Figure 1.1** A dental mirror allows you to examine the distal aspects of molars during therapy.



■ **Figure 1.2** Before looking inside the mouth, examine the entire head for abnormalities, such as the generalized swelling of the face of this dog (oral mass).

PROCEDURE

Alert Examination

- Use great caution with anxious or aggressive animals or those in pain; examination may have to be accomplished under sedation (carefully) or when the patient is anesthetized.
- With the patient gently restrained on the table or floor, first observe the external structures of the head for any irregularities: symmetry, swelling (Figure 1.2), discoloration, discharge; note any malodor (halitosis).

- Gently hold the muzzle closed with your nondominant hand, and lift up the lips to observe the buccal/labial surfaces of the teeth. Note and record:
 - Accumulations of plaque and/or calculus (Figure 1.3).
 - Missing teeth (circle on chart).
 - Supernumerary teeth.
 - Worn (AT for attrition), chipped, broken (FX for fractured) or discolored teeth.
 - Gingival inflammation, overgrowth or recession.
 - Red or bleeding gingiva: draining tract (parulis), purulent discharge.
 - Gingival enlargement.
 - Possible presence of tooth resorption (TR) – feline and canine.
 - Position of teeth (occlusion).
 - Incisors should be in “scissor bite” (Figure 1.4).
 - Lower canine should be spaced equally between upper third incisor and upper canine.
 - Premolars should interdigitate in a “pinking shear” configuration.
 - Individual teeth in proper position.
 - Oral soft tissues.
 - Any fistula or defects.
 - Note if any unusual masses are present; press up in the intermandibular space to lift tongue to view sublingual area (Figure 1.5).
- If the patient is not in pain, and will allow it, briefly open the mouth:
 - Assess palate.
 - Look at tongue, and even raise the tongue pushing with your finger in the intermandibular space.
 - Caudal mouth: assess inflammation in any possible stomatitis case.
- With discolored teeth, occasionally a patient will allow you to transilluminate the tooth during the initial exam.



■ **Figure 1.3** During the alert exam in anxious patients, caution may be needed to carefully lift the lips with gentle restraint (use a tongue depressor to preserve your fingers), so the extent of calculus and plaque can be estimated (significant accumulations in this patient).



■ **Figure 1.4** This patient shows a variation from a correct “scissors” bite, with the left maxillary first incisor positioned behind the mandibular incisors (rostral crossbite).



■ **Figure 1.5** With a cooperative patient, the tongue can be elevated by pushing up with a finger in the intermandibular space.

Complete Examination Under General Anesthesia

- Reevaluate occlusion before intubation.
- Initial identification of significant lesions to help treatment planning and inform owner of unexpected problems (“red flag check”).
- Continue more extensive evaluation of above indices (Table 1.1):
 - Plaque index.
 - Calculus index (Figure 1.6).
 - Gingival index.

TABLE 1.1 Periodontal indices.

Plaque index (PI)	
PI 0	No observable plaque
PI 1	Plaque covers less than one-third of buccal surface
PI 2	Plaque covers between one- and two-thirds of buccal surface
PI 3	Plaque covers greater than two-thirds of buccal tooth surface
Calculus index (CI)	
CI 0	No observable calculus
CI 1	Calculus covering less than one-third of the buccal tooth surface
CI 2	Calculus covering between one- and two-thirds of the buccal surface with minimal subgingival extension
CI 3	Calculus covering greater than two-thirds of the buccal surface and extending subgingivally
Gingival index (GI)	
GI 0	Normal healthy gingiva with sharp, noninflamed edges
GI 1	Marginal gingivitis; minimal inflammation at the free margin; no bleeding on probing
GI 2	Moderate gingivitis; wider band of inflammation; bleeding on probing
GI 3	Advanced gingivitis; inflammation clinically reaching mucogingival junction; spontaneous bleeding sometimes present



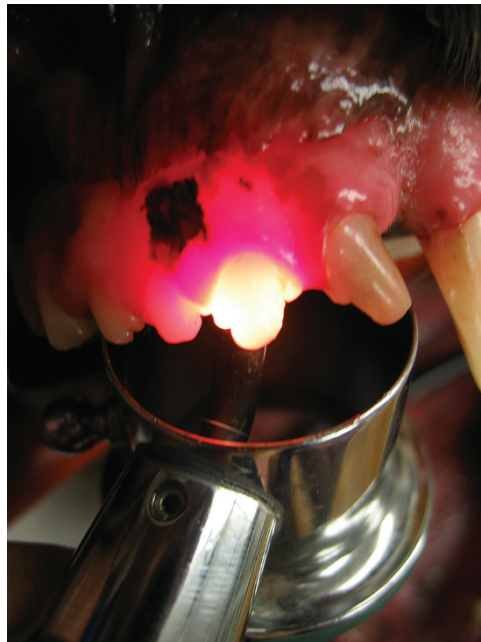
■ **Figure 1.6** A more accurate assessment of the extent of plaque and calculus accumulation can be determined under anesthesia. This patient shows moderate calculus accumulation (CI 2) and plaque accumulation (PI 2, covering the calculus).

- Missing teeth: radiograph for embedded or unerupted teeth (see Chapter 14).
- Supernumerary teeth: evaluate for potential interference, crowding (see Chapter 15).
- Abnormal teeth: aberration in size, structure; evaluate for vitality (see Chapter 16).
- Worn, chipped or fractured teeth; discolored teeth (see Chapters 24, 26 and 37).

- Evaluate surface and determine if canal exposed (use periodontal explorer) (Figure 1.7).
- Transilluminate to assess pulp vitality:
 - Place the transillumination beam behind the tooth being observed, and examine the extent of light transmitted through the tooth.
 - Vital teeth should transilluminate well, allowing light to pass through the tooth structure, even showing the pink of the pulp (Figure 1.8).

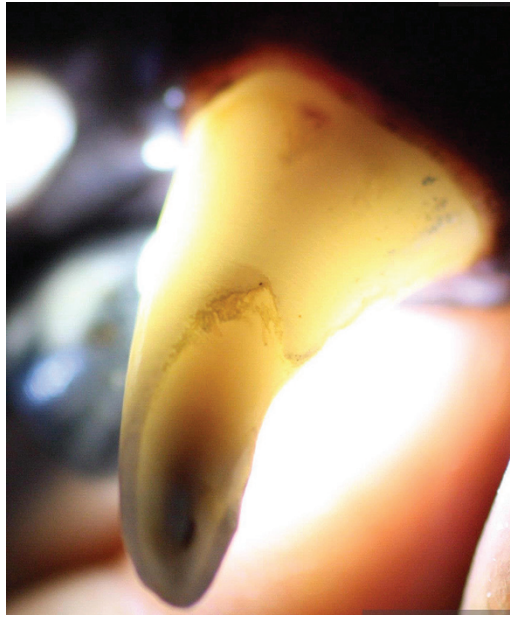


■ **Figure 1.7** Explorer used to detect pulpal exposure of this left mandibular canine (complicated crown fracture).

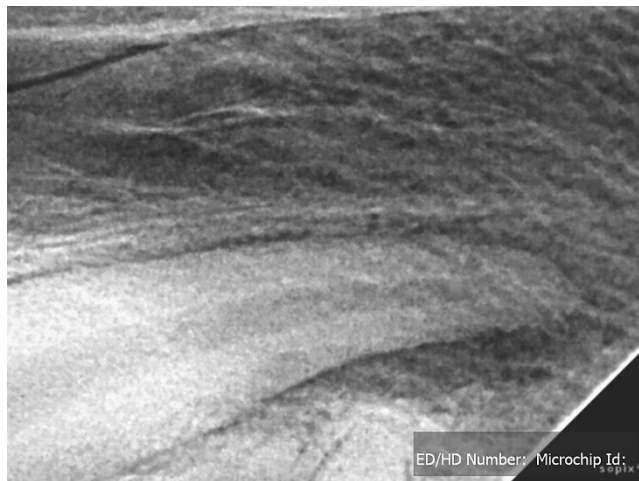


■ **Figure 1.8** Transillumination of this maxillary left second incisor shows good light transmission: the pulp is apparently vital.

- Nonvital teeth will not transilluminate well, appearing dark or dull, especially in the chamber portion (central), though the light will sometimes shine through the peripheral dentin to some degree (Figure 1.9). Note that the great majority of discolored teeth are nonvital and should be treated (Figure 1.10).
- Further evaluate with radiographs.
 - Radiograph to evaluate periapical bone, canal size.
- Mobile teeth: assess periodontal status and/or root fractures (Table 1.2).



■ **Figure 1.9** Transillumination of this maxillary right canine shows poor light transmission: the pulp is apparently nonvital and warrants further diagnostic evaluation (radiography).



■ **Figure 1.10** Assessing the open canal and apical bone loss on this radiograph confirms that the canine shown in Figure 1.9 is nonvital and requires therapy (root canal or extraction).

TABLE 1.2 Tooth mobility (M) index.

M0	Physiologic mobility up to 0.2 mm
M1	The mobility is increased in any direction other than axial over a distance of more than 0.2 mm and up to 0.5 mm
M2	The mobility is increased in any direction other than axial over a distance of more than 0.5 mm and up to 1.0 mm
M3	The mobility is increased in any direction other than axial over a distance exceeding 1.0 mm or any axial movement

TABLE 1.3 Common dental abbreviations.

AL	Attachment loss	OM	Oral mass
AT	Attrition (wear)	ONF	Oronasal fistula
CA	Caries	PE	Pulp exposure
CWD	Crowding	PP	Periodontal pocket
ED	Enamel defect	RD	Retained (persistent) deciduous
EP	Epulis	RE	Root exposure
FE	Furcation exposure	ROT	Rotated tooth
FX	Fracture	RPC	Root planing, closed
GH	Gingival hyperplasia	RPO	Root planing, open
GV/GVP	Gingivectomy/plasty	RTR	Retained root
LPS	Lymphocytic plasmacytic (caudal) stomatitis	TR	Tooth resorption
M	Mobile tooth	X	Extraction
(.) (circled)	Missing tooth	XS	Extraction, surgical
OP	Odontoplasty	XSS	Extraction, surgical, with sectioning

- Oral soft tissues:
 - Oral masses: early detection is critical (see Chapters 29–36).
 - Ulceration, depigmentation (see Chapters 23 and 41).
- Periodontal probing (see Chapter 2).
- Intraoral radiographs (see Chapter 3).

Charting

- Accurately record all variations from normal on chart (Table 1.3). See also Figures 1.11 and 1.12
- Dental formulas:
 - Canine permanent: $2 \times (I \ 3/3; C \ 1/1; P \ 4/4; M \ 3/2) = 42$
 - Canine deciduous: $2 \times (I \ 3/3; C \ 1/1; P \ 3/3) = 28$
 - Feline permanent: $2 \times (I \ 3/3; C \ 1/1; P \ 3/2; M \ 1/1) = 30$
 - Feline deciduous: $2 \times (I \ 3/3; C \ 1/1; P \ 3/2) = 26$
- Modified Triadan system can be used to identify teeth:
 - Quadrant numbering
 - “100”: upper right quadrant
 - “200”: upper left quadrant

Main Street Veterinary Dental Clinic - Feline Dental Chart

Client name:	Client #:	Chief Complaint:
Patient name:	Patient #:	
Date:		
Breed:		

Assessment :

Radiographs: ☐ Full ☐ Partial ☐ None

Treatment:

Clean/Polish/Dental Exam ☐


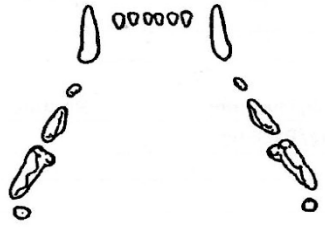
Periodontics

Endodontics

Exodontics

Orthodontics

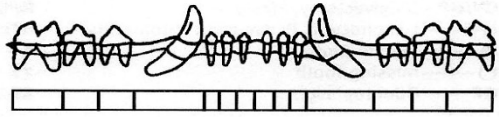
Comments:

Maxilla

Right Left

Mandible



Post tx instructions:

Antibiotics:

Pain meds:

Diet: ☐ Normal ☐ Soft

Prevention:

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Oral Rinse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daily Brushing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SANOS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> t/d Dental Diet</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Mouth</p> <p>Recheck exam : _____</p> <p>Next oral procedure : _____</p>	<p>AB abrasion</p> <p>AT attrition</p> <p>B/E biopsy excisional</p> <p>BI biopsy incisional</p> <p>BG bone graft</p> <p>CA caries</p> <p>CAO chron alv osteitis</p> <p>CFP Cleft palate</p> <p>CRA crown amputation</p> <p>CU contact ulcer</p> <p>CWD crowding</p>	<p>DTC dentigerous cyst</p> <p>ED enamel defect</p> <p>E/H enam. hypoplasia</p> <p>FB foreign body</p> <p>FX fracture (tooth /jaw)</p> <p>FE furcation exposure</p> <p>GH gingival hyperplasia</p> <p>GR gingival recession</p> <p>GP/GV gingivoplasty/ectomy</p> <p>HI hair impaction</p> <p>M mobility 1,2,3</p>	<p>MAL malocclusion</p> <p>MN mandible</p> <p>MX maxilla</p> <p>NE near exposure</p> <p>NV non-vital tooth</p> <p>OM oral mass</p> <p>ONF oronasal fistula</p> <p>PD1 gingivitis only</p> <p>PD2 <25% attach loss</p> <p>PD3 25-50% attach loss</p> <p>PD4 >50% attach loss</p>	<p>PE pulp exposure</p> <p>PP periodontal pocket</p> <p>PRO periodontal prophylaxis</p> <p>R/C restoration w/ comp</p> <p>RC root canal therapy</p> <p>RD retained deciduous</p> <p>RE root exposure</p> <p>RPC root planing closed</p> <p>RPO root planing open</p> <p>RRT retained root tip</p> <p>RTR retained tooth root</p>	<p>SE extrinsic staining</p> <p>SI intrinsic staining</p> <p>SN supernumerary</p> <p>ST stomatitis</p> <p>SYM/S symphyseal sep</p> <p>T/I tooth impaction</p> <p>TR tooth resorption</p> <p>UE under erupted</p> <p>X extraction</p> <p>XS extraction sectioned</p> <p>XSS extraction surgical</p>
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■ **Figure 1.12** Feline dental chart. Source: courtesy of Main Street Veterinary Dental Clinic – SVP.

- Fourth premolar: “_08”
- Example: right upper fourth premolar, “108”
- Example: left lower first molar, “309”
- Variations
 - Feline: no maxillary first premolar or mandibular first and second premolars, so “first” premolars are “106” and “206” in the maxilla, and “307” and “407” in the maxilla; only first molar present all four quadrants

- Canine: no maxillary third premolar
- Deciduous teeth: “add” 400 to quadrant number – 500 to 800, no deciduous molars, only premolars



COMMENTS

- A thorough examination can be performed on every patient in a reasonable amount of time and is essential to detect any abnormalities that may be present.

See also the following chapters:

- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 9
- Chapter 14
- Chapter 15
- Chapter 16
- Chapter 24
- Chapter 26
- Chapter 23
- Chapters 29–36
- Chapter 37
- Chapter 41
- Appendix C

Abbreviations

See Table 1.3.

Internet Resources

<https://avdc.org/avdc-nomenclature/>

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Periodontal Probing

INDICATIONS

- Every patient that is anesthetized for any dental procedure should have a complete dental examination performed, including periodontal probing of every tooth surface.

EQUIPMENT (see Chapter 9)

Periodontal Probe

- Round, flat.
- Marked in millimeters, various markings (Figure 2.1).
 - Some marked with indentations at 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 mm.
 - Some marked in alternating 3-mm bands of black and silver.
- Pressure-sensitive: plastic probe with additional indicator that is depressed when too much pressure is applied.



■ **Figure 2.1** Each periodontal probe has markings in millimeters to allow measurement of pocket depth and root exposure/gingival recession.