

**Range Animal Hospital**

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# Endodontics or Root Canal Therapy

- A common need in the dog, but uncommonly accomplished.
- The technical details for endodontic restorations are not beyond most practices, but attention to detail, the availability of dental radiographs, and appropriate dental engines are a must. Additionally, there is an amount of investment in endodontic and restorative materials.
- We believe the canine teeth, along with the upper P<sub>4</sub> & M<sub>1</sub> and lower M<sub>1</sub> & M<sub>2</sub>, are teeth that should be restored if possible. The remainder of the teeth, based on the condition of the mouth in general, may be restored, or extracted if in need of endodontic treatment.
- We further believe that all teeth with pulp death deserve root canal therapy, or should be extracted. While abscess may not be present, the degradation products of pulp death and aseptic necrosis are inflammatory and cause painful periapical disease. Very often these teeth do progress to abscessation. Immediate endodontic therapy for pulp death stops the pain of the non-infectious inflammatory apical disease, and prevents abscessation. It is no longer considered appropriate to radiograph discolored teeth, and if no abscess is present, wait and observe. These teeth are likely painful already.
- Fractured teeth with less than 1/3 of the crown remaining should reasonably be extracted. If greater than 1/3 of the crown is present, restoration will likely yield a usable, and valuable tooth.
- Fractured teeth, with any portion of the fracture extending below the level of the alveolar rim, should be extracted. If the fracture extends below the gum line, but not into the socket, reduction of the gum line to place restorative materials is appropriate, and will save the tooth.
- A morning appointment is scheduled with Dr. Martinson; he will meet with the client, examine the dog, and perform dental radiographs under anesthesia, with endodontic therapy following if indicated.. Dr. Martinson will take the appropriate time to explain the procedure, the aftercare, and answer any questions that your clients may have.
- We prefer to do these procedures on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, with the dog returning home the same day, generally between 3:00 and 5:00 PM.
- Most root canals are accomplished in 1 appointment. An occasional patient will require two. This is most often in a tooth with some vitality in the pulp and subsequent bleeding that does not stop with intra-operative techniques. In that case, the canal will be medicated and a temporary filling placed, and another appointment made a week later.
- Cost is approximately \$475 to \$575 for single and multiple root teeth, respectively. [January 2011]. This includes anesthesia, x-rays, and needed composite restoration, but not any needed pre-op blood work. Feel free to send the clients with appropriate lab work and films. We will be sure the radiographs are returned.