

Robinson Veterinary Services

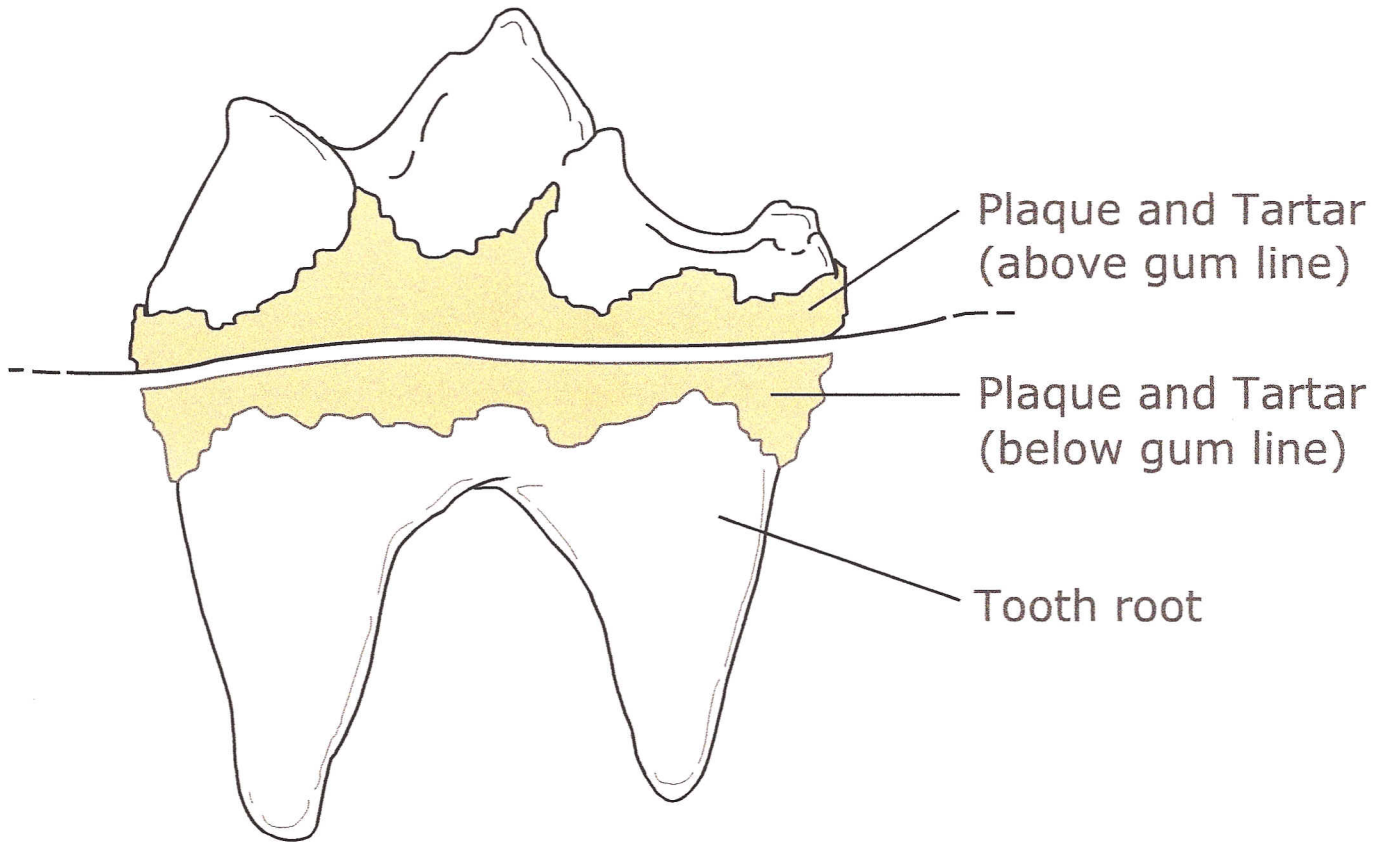
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Dental Disease: Molar tooth showing tartar above and below gum line.



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Periodontal disease is the most common dental disease of dogs and cats, and represents the most common health problem in dogs and cats. Periodontal disease is a term used to describe inflammation or infection of the tissues surrounding the tooth. Plaque and tartar accumulate on the teeth and start the process by irritating the gums along the gum line. Inflammation leads to gingivitis, gum recession, and root exposure. Left untreated, the infection spreads deeper into the socket, eroding the bone and causing the tooth to eventually fall out. Infection can be absorbed into the bloodstream from the periodontal tissues where it can spread to other vital organs, especially the heart, liver, or kidneys. Further information about this subject can be found in our Client Education Handout Series.