

Robinson Veterinary Services

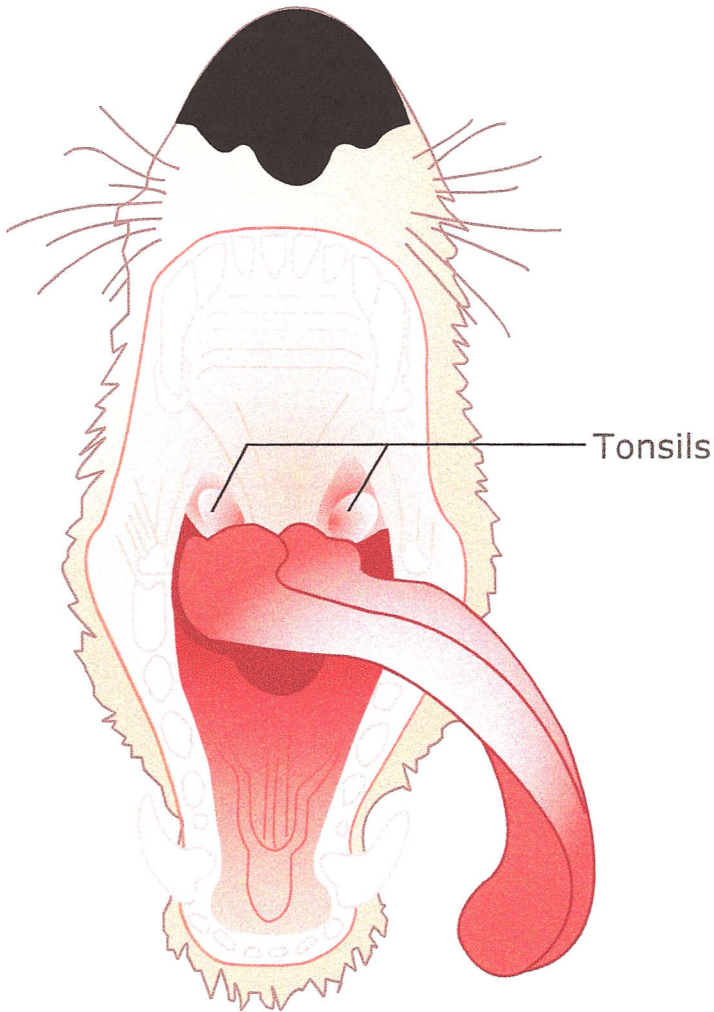
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Tonsils: Location of tonsils in the dog, general problems.



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The tonsils are part of the "Gut Associated Lymphoid System", or GALT, the portion of the immune system that is found within the intestinal tract and protects the body from that route of infection. The tonsils are located at the back of the pharynx or throat, and are found in little pouches, called crypts. The most common problem that occurs with the tonsils is infectious tonsillitis. Tonsillitis usually occurs as a result of dental disease, but may also occur when a dog has Kennel Cough, also known as rhinotracheitis. Certain small breeds of dogs such as pugs may develop enlarged tonsils due to the abnormal shape of their upper respiratory passages (the nose, nasal passages and soft palate), which causes the tonsils to enlarge in response to the physical obstruction to passage of air.