

**Mountain View Animal Hospital
129 Main Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
802-879-6311 www.vtvvet.com**

FELINE ODONTOCLASTIC RESORPTIVE LESIONS (FORL)

A common feline oral dental problem is Feline Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesion (FORL). Also, referred to as Feline Cavities, Neck Lesions and Cervical Erosions. Most cats over the age of five have one or more of these painful cavities. The lesions start as small defects in the tooth structure and lead to invasion of cells that gradually remove the enamel. The nerve is frequently exposed, thus causing pain and discomfort. Many times the tooth breaks off, leaving a painful retained root.

Clinical signs

Excessive salivation
Oral bleeding
Difficulty eating
Decreased appetite
Weight loss
Jaw or teeth painful when touched

Treatment

Restoration work done on these lesions has not been an effective treatment. The current treatment usually involves extraction of the affected tooth. When extracting these teeth, every effort is made to remove all of the root structure, but quite often the tooth is weakened and is already fractured or fractures very easily. If the root is retained, the root is resorbed over time with a much slower healing time. This is why it is best to have a dental preformed on your cat and have the tooth properly removed to ensure proper healing of your cat's mouth. Once the tooth is extracted healing time is short and your cat should be more comfortable and pain free.