



# Feline Oral Resorptive Lesions

## WHAT IS A FELINE ORAL RESORPTIVE LESION?

One of the more common oral abnormalities seen in veterinary practice is the feline oral resorptive lesion (FORL). Feline oral resorptive lesions have also been called cervical neck lesions, external or internal root resorptions, and cervical line erosions, FORL's are usually found on the outside surface of the tooth where the gum meets the tooth surface. Although the premolars of the lower jaw are most commonly affected, lesions can be found on any tooth. A majority of the cats diagnosed with FORL are over four years of age.

## WHAT CAUSES FELINE ORAL RESORPTIVE LESIONS?

The exact cause is unknown, but research suggests a correlation between problems with calcium metabolism, chronic calicivirus infections, or an autoimmune response. Whatever the underlying cause, the end result is loss of enamel on the affected tooth, through a process of resorption.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CAT HAS A FELINE ORAL RESORPTIVE LESION?

The resorptive oral lesion erodes into the sensitive underlying dentin, causing a cat to experience pain, manifested as muscular spasms or trembling of the jaw, whenever the lesion is touched. Cats with FORL's may show increased salivation, oral bleeding, or difficulty eating. Lesions above the gum line can be observed on close examination and those below the gum line can only be identified with x-rays. In some cases, the FORL will be covered with inflamed gum tissues. Cats are very good at masking pain, you may not notice that it is important to bring your cat in for regular check-ups.

**If you have any questions feel free to give us a call!**

7791 52ND Street North Pinellas Park, FL 33781  
pah@pinellasvet.com (727) 546-0005