

VETERINARY VOICE: Tips of the Trade

Dentistry – Discolored Teeth

Types of Generalized (entire mouth) Discolorations	<p>Genetic: Amelogenesis imperfecta, dentinogenesis imperfecta, odontodysplasia</p> <p>Metabolic Disturbance (prolonged): enamel hypoplasia, enamel hypomineralization.</p> <p>Aging: Enamel infarction, attrition, abrasion</p> <p>Iatrogenic: tetracyclines, fluorosis</p>
Types of Localized Discolorations	<p>Genetic: Odontodysplasia</p> <p>Metabolic Disturbance (short period): enamel hypoplasia, enamel hypomineralization</p> <p>Aging: enamel infarction, attrition, abrasion with tertiary dentin</p> <p>Trauma/endodontic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-eruptive: mechanical/chemical trauma, periapical pathology deciduous tooth• Post-eruptive: pulp hemorrhage, pulp necrosis, internal resorption <p>Dental caries</p> <p>Iatrogenic: Endodontic and restorative materials</p>
Types of pseudo-discolorations	<p>Dental plaque and calculus</p> <p>Agents in food</p>
How are non-vital teeth differentiated from vital teeth?	<p>Careful clinical charting will determine periodontal status and breach of the pulp cavity. Dental radiographs are employed looking for periapical changes, width of the pulp chamber compared to the contralateral tooth, and periodontal changes (like PDL changes).</p>
Most common discolorations	<p>Tertiary dentin is a brownish discoloration on occlusal aspect of teeth that have been abraded.</p> <p>Hemorrhage or necrosis of the pulp causes lysis of the erythrocytes. The hemoglobin breaks down into pigments which penetrate the dentinal tubules and are responsible for the different discolorations (pink, tan, purple, brown).</p>
Questions?	<p>The Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson has a board-certified dentist and oral surgeon available for questions and consultations on dentistry and oral surgery during the weekdays. She is also on call to provide consultations to VSCT emergency doctors and to perform emergency procedures for patients seen by the VSCT emergency service. Board-certified dentists have four additional years of training after veterinary school and are certified by the American Veterinary Dental College to assure competency in advanced veterinary dentistry and oral surgery.</p>
Dentistry and Oral Surgery Expert: Celeste G. Roy, DVM, DAVDC	