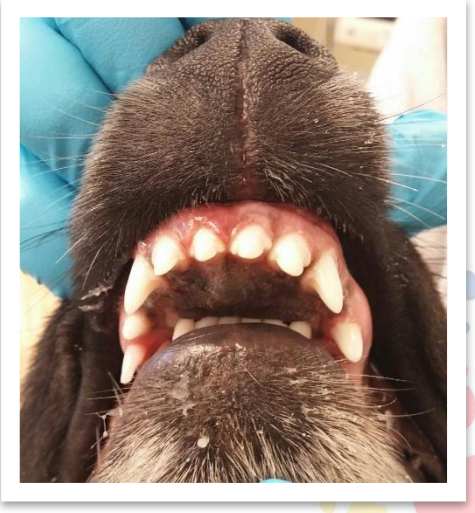
Malocclusion and Orthodontic Treatment



As dental and oral surgery specialists, our ultimate goal in treating a malocclusion (abnormal bite) is to create both a functional and comfortable occlusion (bite) for our patients. Treatment is not performed for aesthetic reasons.

In evaluating a patient's bite, we examine how the teeth fit together when the mouth is in a closed position. Treatment is indicated when malpositioned teeth cause trauma to the gums, palate, or surrounding teeth, resulting in painful occlusion.

Bite evaluation begins at your pet's first puppy or kitten visit to your family veterinarian. Occlusion should be carefully monitored throughout the growth and development of your pet. If a malocclusion (abnormal bite) is detected by your veterinarian, evaluation and consultation with a veterinary dental and oral surgery specialist is recommended.

Some malocclusions are best treated with early intervention, and in some cases treatment may begin as early as 8-10 weeks of age. The most common types of malocclusions involve deciduous (baby) teeth and treatment at this stage can be vital in preventing malocclusions involving the adult teeth.