EXTRACTION OF RETAINED ROOTS

Root fracture is a very common problem in veterinary dentistry. The removal of retained root tips may seem to be a daunting task, but with proper technique and training, as well as the use of dental radiography, it can be fairly straightforward. The first step is to obtain radiographs to evaluate and visualize the retained roots. A gingival flap is necessary, and either an envelope flap (a) or a full flap (with one or two vertical releasing incisions) can be used depending on the anticipated amount of exposure required to retrieve the fragments. Following flap creation, buccal cortical bone is removed with a carbide bur to a point somewhat below the most coronal aspect of the remaining root. (b) If necessary, the bone can be removed 360 degrees around the tooth, but this author tries to avoid this aggressive approach. Once the root (s) can be visualized (c), careful elevation with small, sharp elevators is initiated. (d) Once the root is mobile, it can be extracted normally. After the root is extracted (e), the bone is smoothed and the defect closed. (f)

Figure 40: Extraction of retained roots.

c) Exposed root. d) Elevation of exposed root.
e) Empty alveolus. f) Closure of flap.