



Update on stomatitis in dogs and cats

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One special entity in periodontal disease is stomatitis. This may be among the most frustrating oral pathologies seen in daily veterinary practice and is defined as an inflammation of the oral mucosa beyond the mucogingival junction.

Both dogs and cats can be affected by this extensive and painful inflammation. In cats this is often referred to as feline chronic gingival stomatitis, FCGS (Hennet *et.al*, 2011) and in dogs it has been described as canine chronic ulcerative paradental stomatitis, CUPS (Anderson *et.al*, 2017, Boutoille and Hennet 2011) or canine chronic ulcerative stomatitis (CCUS). Both in dogs and cats a comparison with human oral lichen planus has been mentioned.

Because the FCGS syndrome can be related to several different oral inflammatory lesions, it is important to specify the location of the main inflammatory changes within the oral cavity. The presence or absence of caudal stomatitis lesions is important for the treatment options and prognosis and should be distinguished from inflammatory lesion in the alveolar and buccal regions. A recent review on the FCGS syndrome revealed that many studies on this topic are lacking a thorough study design and therefore only few studies could be included in that review (Winer JN, *et.al*, 2016). The authors concluded that surgery is the main therapeutic treatment. Another study did not find a difference between full mouth and partial mouth extractions (Jennings MW, *et.al*, 2015). A novel, still experimental, approach in the treatment of the FCGS syndrome is the use of stem cells (various articles from Arzi B).

In dogs a chronic stomatitis is in most cases accompanied by a periodontitis. Lesions may be localized (often called “kissing ulcers”) or more generalized affecting several mucosal surfaces, including the tongue. Symptoms like drooling, restriction upon opening the mouth, anorexia among others indicate that this is a painful disease. Anderson *et.al* found evidence that an immune-mediated process underlies the chronic stomatitis in dogs (Anderson, *et.al*, 2017) and it is important to differentiate this stomatitis from other diseases that also lead to inflammatory changes of oral mucosa.

References:

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