

## **Removal or Reduction of Teeth as a Treatment for Canine or Feline Aggression**

Adopted by the Board of Directors, April 23, 2005

Crown amputation or extraction of multiple teeth in management of canine and feline aggression (sometimes referred to as “disarming”) is a controversial topic. The AVDC endorses this procedure in selected cases, in combination with behavioral modification of dogs and cats that bite.

The extent of the dental procedure may vary in individual cases from crown amputation of canine teeth to extraction of all teeth. All dental treatments must be performed appropriately, under general anesthesia, understanding the disadvantages and risks related to the procedure.

Crown amputations must reduce crown height appropriately, and remaining tooth structure requires endodontic therapy, including periodic long-term radiographic evaluation. Crown amputation with endodontic therapy or extraction of multiple teeth rarely causes long-term complications. Appropriate pain management measures are essential for any of these procedures.

It must be understood that removal or reduction of teeth as a treatment for canine or feline aggression will not absolutely prevent injury to people or to other animals.

