During the anesthetized oral exam, a periodontal probe and dental radiographs are used to evaluate for pulp exposure and the overall periodontal health of the tooth. Based on this assessment, treatment options include: endodontic treatment (root canal therapy), surgical extraction, or restorative treatment.

**Endodontic Treatment**

Root canal therapy is a type of endodontic treatment that allows the tooth to remain functional. With root canal therapy, your pet should recover more quickly and experience less discomfort than with extraction. We prefer root canal therapy for treatment of fractured or non-living, strategic teeth. During root canal therapy, the contents of the pulp chamber are removed. The chamber is then sterilized, filled and sealed to prevent bacteria from entering the tooth and causing painful infection. In some cases, a metal crown may be indicated.

**Surgical Extractions**

Surgical extractions may be necessary if the root and surrounding tissue and bone are not healthy enough for endodontic treatment or if you decide not to pursue root canal therapy for your pet for other reasons. Surgical extractions are always performed by one of our board-certified veterinary dentists.

**Restorative Treatment**

Restorative materials are used to treat enamel defects and some dental fractures in teeth without exposed pulp tissue.