

Prevalence of Oral Disease

The following table outlines the prevalence of oral disease in cats presented to Banfield Pet Hospitals in 2014. External tooth resorption in cats is discussed in **External Tooth Resorption in Cats—Part 1: Pathogenesis, Classification, & Diagnosis** (page 20).

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Prevalence of Oral Disease per 10,000 Cats Seen, Grouped by Age and Reproductive Status* (2014)

Age & Reproductive Status	Population in Category	Periodontal Disease Per 10,000	Stomatitis Per 10,000	Resorptive Lesions Per 10,000	Eosinophilic Granulomas Per 10,000
All cats combined	483,649	6150	71	107	4
Juvenile (< 1 year)	115,620	676	27.3	1.7	2.6
Young adult (1 to < 3 years)	107,259	5391	62.4	21.2	4.3
Mature adult (3 to < 10 years)	189,823	8248	90.4	149.3	4.6
Geriatric (≥ 10 years)	97,765	8428	87.3	212.7	4.3
Castrated male	217,260	6718	84.1	116.9	4.7
Spayed female	215,107	6558	64.6	115	4.3
Intact male	23,048	1805	45.6	12.1	0.9
Intact female	27,006	2307	46.7	27	2.2

*NOTE: Age group and reproductive status totals do not match overall totals. Age groups are derived from visit age in 2014; some pets may have been counted in multiple age categories (eg, a pet that visited as a juvenile and then as a young adult in 2014). Reproductive status totals do not match due to animals of unknown sex or reproductive status.

Path to Pet Wellness: I read with interest Banfield Pet Hospital's reported prevalence of oral disease per 10,000 cats seen, grouped by age and reproductive status. The reported incidence of periodontal disease of over 80% in the mature and geriatric population correlates with generally accepted feline figures. Although I am not familiar with any published studies describing the incidence of stomatitis or eosinophilic granulomas in cats, the incidence of resorptive lesions reported here (in the range of 1%–2%) greatly underrepresents expectations, with the generally published incidence ranging between 30% to 70% of the mature cat population. I suspect the difference in numbers lies in the method of gathering information.

Tooth resorption in the cat begins in the cementum just apical to the cemento-enamel junction, which is generally hidden from the naked eye and easily missed in the examination room. To properly diagnose early tooth resorption, anesthetized tooth-by-tooth examination with a dental explorer and intraoral radiography are needed. I look forward to further peer-reviewed dental prevalence studies.

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Suggested Reading:

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 Lommer MJ, Verstraete FJM. Prevalence of odontoclastic resorption lesions and periapical radiographic lucencies in cats: 265 cases (1995-1998). *JAVMA* 2000; 217(12):1866-1869.
 O'Neill DG, Church DB, McGreevy PD, et al. Prevalence of disorders recorded in cats attending primary-care veterinary practices in England. *Vet J* 2014; 202(2):286-291. doi: 10.1016/j.tvjl.2014.08.004. [Epub 2014 Aug 7].
 Ohba S, Kuwabara M, Kamata H, et al. Scanning electron microscopy of root resorption of feline teeth. *J Vet Med Sci* 2004; 66(12):1579-1581.
 Petterson A, Mannerfelt T. Prevalence of dental resorptive lesions in Swedish cats. *J Vet Dent* 2003; 20(3):140-142.
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In each issue of *Today's Veterinary Practice*, **Pet Health by the Numbers** correlates an article topic with statistics provided by Banfield Pet Hospital (banfield.com). These statistics are extracted from data collected from the medical records of nearly **2.4 million dogs** and more than **480,000 cats** presented to more than **890 Banfield Pet Hospitals** in 2014.

Learn more about data collection by reading **Welcome to Pet Health by the Numbers** (January/February 2014 issue) and **Key Findings from the State of Pet Health 2014 Report** (May/June 2014 issue), both available at tvjournal.com.

The data in the table show that intact cats have substantially less periodontal disease than neutered cats. However, this is not due to the fact that neutering pets increases their risk for this disease but, rather, because intact cats, on average, are younger than neutered cats. As stated in the commentary, incidence of periodontal disease is much higher in mature and geriatric cats.