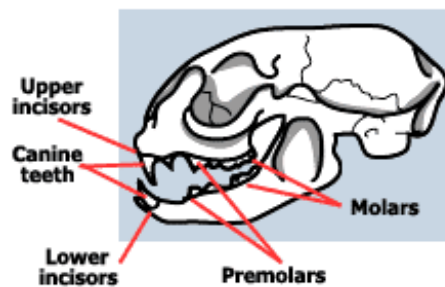


Cat Dental Facts

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



- Kittens have 26 temporary teeth, 14 in the upper jaw and 12 in the lower jaw. These deciduous teeth begin to erupt at about two to four weeks of age.
- Cats have 30 permanent teeth, 16 on the top and 14 on the bottom. These emerge at about three to four months of age.
- Cats have 2 permanent teeth that have 3 roots each, and 10 teeth that each have 2 roots.
- The hairlike structures on the rough tongue of a cat are called 'papillae' and aid in grooming.
- The first symptom of a fractured upper canine tooth (the large fang) in a cat may be sneezing.
- The most common oral tumor in cats is squamous cell carcinoma. These tumors often start under the tongue.
- Studies show that 70 percent of cats show signs of gum disease (gingivitis) by age three. Symptoms include yellow and brown build-up of tartar along the gumline, red inflamed gums, and persistent bad breath.
- Oral disease is a common finding in cats infected with feline leukemia virus (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), and feline calicivirus (FCV).
- Feline oral resorptive lesions, commonly called cervical line lesions or neck lesions affect 25% of domestic cats, and are the most common cause of tooth loss. The lesions often begin below the gumline, so they may develop undetected.



See our article, [Dog Dental Facts](#), for more interesting information.