



## **Extramedullary Oral Plasmacytoma**

Extramedullary, meaning outside the bone marrow, plasmacytomas, meaning neoplasia (cancer) from plasma cells can occur on the feet, trunk, or most commonly in the mouth. Initial diagnosis is from an incisional biopsy. The best treatment to remove the tumor is surgical excision of the tumor. This surgery may involve removing part of the jaw and teeth. The majority of dogs have good long-term control and extramedullary plasmacytomas do not tend to spread to the lungs, lymph nodes, or other parts of the body. Some symptoms your pet may be exhibiting are increased drooling, halitosis, difficulty eating or swallowing, or even swelling to the face.

The first step is to have the veterinarian do a clinical examination. The doctor will examine the size and location, checking for any mobility or any other abnormal findings with structures around the tumor. A full physical examination is also important to examine lymph nodes, auscultation (listening) of the heart and lungs so the doctor can determine what the recommended treatment plan will be. Pre-operative chest radiographs, CT, and/or MRI may be recommended.

The second step is to get the tumor diagnosed and staged. After pre-operative blood work is done, a biopsy sample will be obtained under anesthesia. The sample will be sent to a pathologist experienced with oral pathology. Dental radiographs will determine how much bone resorption/invasion has occurred, and play an important part in pre operative planning.