

The Benefits of Root Canal Versus Extraction.

When a tooth is compromised by fracture or pulpitis, root canal or extraction are often the only treatment options. Briefly, the essence of a root canal procedure is to convert a compromised tooth into a noninfectious, pain-free, functional tooth. With extraction, the affected tooth is completely removed.

Below is a comparison of root canal therapy verse extraction:

Root Canal Therapy (Endodontics)	Extraction (Exodontics)
Root canal therapy is much less invasive than surgical extraction. A small access opening is made in the crown of the tooth, the part of the tooth above the gumline. No surgery is performed below the gumline.	Extraction involves surgery below the gumline. Especially for larger teeth like the canines and upper 4 th premolars, surgery involves removing large roots and teeth which assist in jaw structure.
Since root canal therapy is less traumatic for the patient, the pain level following the procedure is very minimal and the recovery period is very short.	Although pain can be controlled after an extraction, the level of potential pain after an extraction procedure is greater than root canal therapy.
The main structure of the tooth is preserved. The tooth is completely functional after the root canal. Safe chewing and eating can be resumed immediately.	The tooth is completely removed. All the functionality of the tooth is gone. In addition, secondary problems can be seen when a tooth is extracted. For example, when an upper canine tooth is removed in a cat, the remaining lower canine tooth may cause trauma to the lip (lip entrapment). Or periodontal disease occurs to the opposing carnassial tooth due to loss of the fractured tooth.
The tooth appears close to normal in color after the procedure. Many people can hardly tell root canal therapy was ever performed.	The tooth is completely removed.
No pain medications will need to be prescribed the painful aspect of the tooth has been treated. Patients can go back to hard kibble that day.	Pain medications will need to be prescribed along with soft food for at least 14 days due to oral surgery.

How successful is root canal therapy?

Root canal therapy is very successful in pets, approaching 95-100% for the life of the pet!