At the same time that this is happening in the lower jaw, the gap between the upper canine and upper first molar in smaller dogs it should be the same canine should fit between the two & pushes them apart (en masse). The result is that the lower incisors impact into the hard palate on the inside of the upper canine.

Due to the problems with both the mandible canine function & incisor position in small dogs, the lower canine is often replaced by a ”pulp depository” but this is considered extremely difficult. If done done & retains the functional position and is not an special dog (not easy in a “result with age”).

In non-surgical dogs, odontohobia can be performed with greater success after extraction of all upper incisors in order to create some space to allow movement of the teeth. This will help keep the canines intact (they are the most important teeth). An inclined plane device is usually all that is required. For those dogs where odontohobia is not an option, height reduction and pulp capping of the lower canines is the preferred treatment.

- Dr. Gary Wiken

Traditional Orthodontics such as chains and wires can be used on some dogs. Using this technique is not for every dog, some just do not have the space available to move the lower canines out.

Another form of Orthodontics that can be useful, which is generally very successful, is the use of an inclined plane. This device is made, and slid back into the dog’s mouth for the duration of treatment. Every bite the dog makes moves the teeth. When it opens, the dog has lower canines in the correct painless position.

Bilateral Height Reduction - a speedy solution to a painful problem.

Firstly, the offending teeth are cut with a high speed drill to a much lower height. At this new height the teeth cannot reach the roof of the mouth. However when cut like this the Oclusal living part of the tooth - the pulp - is exposed.

The delicate pulp must be quick and cleanly covered to protect from the external environment. To do this we place a special filling into the pulp. To make room for the filling we drill into the tooth, creating a space for the filling.

Once we have room for a filling a special 3 or 4 layer filling is applied. The very bottom layer is a叫做 “hydrotex”, and this stimulates the tooth to grow more root mass, which eventually covers the pulp. The other layers are done to protect the newly growing tooth while this takes place.

You can save from the picture to the left that the lower canine that used to stick into the parallax of the dog no longer can. This dog is now free from pain. It will only take about 3 months for the new tooth to grow under the filling.

Diagram of the normal position of a lower canine tooth.