

# FOREVER SMILES BRACKET CHATTER

Official Newsletter from Dr. Yan Razdolsky Specialist in Orthodontics for Children & Adults

## DOGGIE BRACES?!?



This did go viral a while back and you may have even seen it yourself – the cute golden retriever with the doggie braces! Whatever one might think, Orthodontic care, even for pets is an advanced dental discipline and one that should never be taken lightly.

We all know, Dr. Razdolsky is taking care of our orthodontic needs and creating beautiful Forever Smiles. But what about Fido or in this case Wesley?

Since the 1980, veterinarian dentists have also been treating our pet's painful and potentially life endangering dental issues with orthodontics. In the standards set forth by the American Veterinary Medical

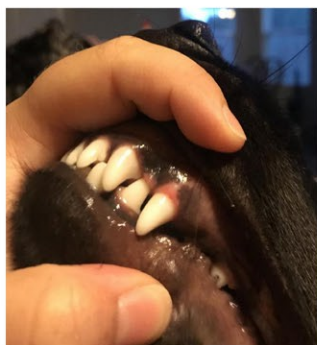
Association (AVMA), "all animals are entitled to a healthy, but not necessarily perfect mouth." That means, while some pets do warrant braces, it is not done for aesthetics. As in the case with Wesley here, his tooth misalignment meant he couldn't close his mouth completely which made eating difficult.

So as is with Dr. Razdolsky and his patients, the goal is the same - a healthy Fur-ever Smile. You see, just like us our pets have many orthodontic issues that can be quite serious if left untreated. Most often, braces for pets are more commonly prescribed when there's an issue with tooth or jaw alignment that, just like with Wesley makes eating difficult or even painful. This can lead to loss of appetite, weight loss and ultimately a decline in overall health. In another example, poor tooth alignment can not only cause discomfort, it can

even poke holes in the roof of the mouth leading to serious and sometimes chronic infections.

So how does the process of doggie braces work? Just like at Forever Smiles, the treatment first starts with a comprehensive evaluation. As stated previously, braces for pets are used to reposition teeth that are improperly aligned or maloccluded in a way that impacts the animal's health. If it is deemed the bite isn't right, consideration is then

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FOREVER SMILES

## SLIP of the TONGUE

The proverb states, "The tongue can be your biggest enemy." That is to say, you said something you did not mean. But literally speaking, the tongue does cause us a lot of problems. That's what Dr. Razdolsky and Elizabeth were reminded of at the American Association of Orthodontics Midwinter meeting on treatment of open bite cases held in Austin, Texas earlier this month.

The tongue is a very powerful muscle – one that's strong enough to push teeth out of their natural position. So, together with hundreds of other orthodontists from all over the world Yan and Elizabeth learned to identify the etiological factors for anterior open bites through analyzing different tongue positions at rest. The program titled, *All About Open Bites*, further focused on the diagnosis and treatment options for today's orthodontist.

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focused on whether it is functional or comfortable. Put very simply if the pet's bite does not suggest a serious health issue, braces are not the prescribed course of treatment. If the issue is serious then additional criteria must also be met before braces are deemed necessary. Consideration of the animal's temperament, overall health as well as the owner's expectations and commitment also come into play. Just like with people orthodontics the process requires several occlusal evaluations and visits, does the owner have the time?

If your pet does eventually receive treatment it is interesting to note that many of the tools and devices used for them are actually borrowed from



human orthodontics. Tooth movement is accomplished by employing brackets, acrylic retainers, springs, and even elastics. No matter what appliances are used however, moving dog teeth is a relatively quick process. Depending on the condition of the mouth, dogs typically only wear their braces for a few weeks or a few months. Depending on the course of treatment, dog braces could run between \$1,500 and \$4,000. 🏠

# SLIP of the TONGUE

(cont'd from front)

"The tongue applies nearly four pounds of pressure every time we swallow. This pressure, when accompanied by a bad swallowing habit can be disastrous to tooth alignment," said Dr. Yan Razdolsky. "To make matters worse, the average person swallows nearly 2,000 times per day! This makes tongue thrust a big factor in the treatment and re-treatment of open bite or malocclusion," he added.

Tongue thrust is described as the habit of pushing the tongue forward between the upper and lower teeth when swallowing, rather than the proper position against the gum and above the upper front teeth. Over time, tongue thrusting can lead to an open bite where only the back teeth will come together during a bite – the front teeth don't actually touch. A lateral open bite is when teeth do not meet on the sides. It is



Open bite due to tongue thrust



Lateral open bite due to tongue thrust.

the anterior open bite, however, that is considered one of the malocclusions most difficult to correct.

So, what is the treatment for tongue thrust? Treatment can include therapeutic exercises to re-train the tongue, kind of like physical therapy. In some cases, Dr. Razdolsky may also prescribe a dental appliance to aid in correction.

"Other various oral habits such as thumb or finger sucking, finger biting, lip biting or sucking, bruxism and even mouth breathing can further produce destructive effects on the dentoalveolar structures," said Dr. Razdolsky. "All these habits will affect muscle and skeletal growth and can lead to permanent

orthodontic issues in adulthood if they are not detected and treated before the completion of facial growth and development."

Not to worry though... through conferences like the one discussed here, Dr. Razdolsky, Elizabeth and the entire Forever Smiles team stay up to date on the latest treatment options so when your braces do come off, your teeth will stay in alignment. 🏠



## In Closing

Thank you for being part of our Forever Smiles Family. If you have any questions about this newsletter or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us at our Buffalo Grove office: 847-215-7554 or via email: [yan@razdolsky.com](mailto:yan@razdolsky.com). We look forward to providing you and our community with even more reasons to smile!

Truly,

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