



# CEDAR WAY VETERINARY CLINIC, LTD.

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## Tooth Eruption

In kittens and puppies, the deciduous teeth begin to erupt at about 3-4 weeks of age and the permanent teeth begin to emerge at about 3-4 months of age.

By 24 weeks of age, usually all of the permanent teeth have emerged.

	<b>Number of Deciduous (Baby) Teeth</b>	<b>Number of Permanent (Adult) Teeth</b>	<b>Age at Eruption of Deciduous Teeth</b>	<b>Age of Eruption of Permanent Teeth</b>
Dog	28 •14 upper •14 lower	42 •20 upper •22 lower	3-8 weeks	12-26 weeks
Cat	26 •14 upper •12 lower	30 •16 upper •14 lower	3-8 weeks	11-24 weeks

Puppies have 28 teeth and adult dogs normally have 42 teeth. It is very important to monitor the transition from the primary (baby) dentition to the secondary (adult) dentition. During this transition period, the dentition is called a "mixed dentition". Abnormal bites (malocclusions) can develop as a result of failure or slow exfoliation (loss) of the primary teeth or failure or slow eruption of the secondary teeth. Abnormalities of this transition from the primary to the secondary teeth can result in minor or major malocclusion that may be potentially painful for these dogs. The primary teeth need to be removed immediately in an attempt to avoid the development of malocclusions!

Kittens normally have 26 teeth and adult cats have 30 teeth. The transition from the primary (baby) teeth to the secondary (adult) teeth is quicker in cats than in dogs. Our clinical experience of malocclusions is significantly lower in cats than in dogs however malocclusions do occur in cats. These abnormal occlusions (bites) can result in problems for cats. Teeth hitting teeth or soft tissues can be uncomfortable.