

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

We refer to a recent paper (Dent Traumatol 2003; 19: 255–261) documenting certain aspects of pulp capping of teeth in dogs. We are concerned about the completeness of the Material and methods section. We did not find any reference to which teeth were treated. This is relevant, given the great variation in shape and size of teeth in dogs. Also, some types of permanent teeth (e.g. incisors) erupt at an age of as early as 3 months, while other types (e.g. canines) typically erupt at approximately 6 months of age. This is especially relevant for the 'young group' in this study.

It is customary for this type of publication to mention Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee approval. This was not included in this paper. One can deduce from the Material and methods and the Results sections in this paper that experimental pulp exposures were created and direct pulp capping was performed on 12 teeth in each dog, presumably in one anesthetic session. This seems harsh, especially given the fact that no mention was made of postoperative pain management. There is also no mention of supportive treatment and dietary adjustments,

if any. The results indicate that in some of these cases pulpitis and pulp necrosis ensued, yet no mention was made of long-term pain assessment and management.

We trust that the Editorial Board of *Dental Traumatology* is in support of the humane treatment of experimental animals, and it would be appropriate to mention this in the guidelines for authors.

Sincerely,

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