

VITAL PULPOTOMY



THE CAROLINAS ANIMAL HOSPITAL & DENTAL CLINIC

A **VITAL PULPOTOMY** is a procedure performed on a VERY recently fractured tooth (optimally within 72 hours). To eliminate infection and continued pain, 4 to 8 mm of pulp tissue is removed from the tooth and a medication is placed. By performing a vital pulpotomy instead of a root canal, the tooth will remain alive. With time, the tooth canal will become narrower and the tooth will strengthen.



After removal of part of the pulp canal, sterile paper points are used to stop the bleeding



Calcium Hydroxide is used to fill the canal



Acid etch is placed on the tooth to help the composite to adhere

X-rays of the tooth confirm proper placement of the filling materials and a special light is used to cure or harden the composite material on the surface of the tooth.



An adhesive is placed on the tooth



x-ray of a tooth with a vital pulpotomy



The finished product is restored with tooth colored composite

Proper post-operative care is essential for long term success. Chewing on inappropriate toys, bones or materials, playing tug of war games and any activity that can compromise the tooth must be avoided. **SIX MONTHS** after the vital pulpotomy we will recheck an x-ray to confirm the health of the tooth. If the tooth appears healthy, at that time impressions can be made of the tooth for a **CROWN**. By placing a crown over the tooth, it restores a significant amount of durability and strength to the tooth.