

Ball Therapy

To help move the adult canines into proper position we recommend using ball therapy. The size and type of the ball or Kong is critical. The ball diameter should be the distance between the tips of the two lower canine teeth plus 50%. Therefore if this distance is 30 mm the ball diameter is 45 mm. If the ball is too small it will sit between the lower canines and produce no tipping force when the pup bites down. Too large a ball can intrude the lower canines back into their sockets. The ball should "give" when the pup bites down. The smooth semi-hollow rubber is best. Tennis balls are abrasive and can damage the tooth surface but for a short time may do the job we require. You need to encourage play with the ball several times a day (6-8) or as often as they will tolerate with a short attention span. The ball should be only at the front of the mouth to go any good. If there are no positive results in six weeks therapy can be discontinued.



Figure 1: Dog with rubber ball (A) and dog with rubber chew toy in its mouth (B). The potential beneficial effect of the toy on linguallly displaced mandibular canine teeth can be clearly seen. The toy subjects the teeth to tipping pressure in a labial direction.