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Successful Reconstruction of the Severe Tongue Laceration in a Siberian Husky Dog

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Introduction: Tongue is functionally most important in the transition from the oral to the pharyngeal phases of swallowing, although the tongue is not a vital organ in sustaining life. In this case, our discussion will focus on critical care related to the surgical management of traumatic tongue tear.

Materials and methods: A 3 year-old, castrated male husky, weighing 22kg with traffic accident. The tongue base was tear almost 90% and right side was lacerated. Because of hematoma of tongue hypersalivation appeared. Additionally mandible symphysis separation, right temporomandibular joint fracture and left mandible Coronoid process fracture was appeared.

Mandible symphysis and fractures were reducted and stabilized. Debridement and curettage of the tear site was performed prior to tongue reconstruction with simple interrupted suture with absorbable suture material two layers. And feeding tube was placed by pharyngoesophageal region. During the postoperative period tongue was disinfected with 0.07% chlorhexidine and resutured at loosed and untied site under sedation daily until no more dehiscence were present. Daily forced feeding was performed and tube was removed when the suture line was firm and dog was able to eat alone.

Results: Three weeks later tongue was almost normally moved and rigidly attached. The dog recovered overall. The dog showed good diet condition for all postoperative period without vomiting when forced feeding.

Clinical relevance: Severe traumatic tongue tear was recovered with intensive care and tube feeding.

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