

# ALASKAN KLEE KAI DENTITION RESEARCH

**AKK DENTITION Report for December 2015**  
**Sheila Sweet**  
**Ongoing**

## INTRODUCTION

It was recently brought to the AKKAOA Health Committee Chair's attention that a large percentage of Alaskan Klee Kai are missing teeth and do not have complete and full dentition. The UKC Breed Standard does call for a full complement of strong white teeth meeting in a scissor bite. However, missing teeth are not listed as a fault or disqualification. A majority of Judges do not examine full dentition for our breed. They typically will only verify whether bite is scissor or not.

## TASK(S)

In order to determine the extent of missing teeth in the breed and evaluate if there are trends for further decline of dentition in the breed, continued education to Alaskan Klee Kai owners, both breeders and pet owners is necessary.

Promotion and encouragement for AKK owners to print out the OFA exam form for their veterinarian to complete upon on routine health exams of their dogs and sending a copy to the AKKAOA Health Committee and/or submission to OFA is the easiest way to gather this data for the breed.

## ACTIVITY/PROCESS

Age of Dogs for Examination:

- Application for Dentition Database Adult teeth must be fully erupted for evaluation. There is no specific age for this evaluation form to be completed other than adult teeth must be fully erupted.
- The earlier the examination can be done, the less opportunity for adult teeth to be knocked out due to excessive chewing or biting on hard objects. In the case of the first pre-molars, they only have a single root and thus are much easier to dislodge from chewing on hard objects.
- For the purpose of research, all Alaskan Klee Kai, regardless of age, should be examined. This initial research does show that a dog as old as 11 years has full dentition.

Submission of Examination Data:

- Optimally, the OFA Dentation Database forms should be submitted to OFA for official recording for the breed. However, if cost is a deterrent, a copy of completed examination forms should be submitted to the AKKAOA Health Committee for this research project.

Examination of Research Data:

- AKKAOA Health Committee will report to the BOD and AKKAOA Members through monthly BOD reports and club Newsletters as data is gathered throughout this project.

Actions Recommended for Breeders:

- No immediate action is recommended for breeders until further evaluation of research data can be made. Do not remove dogs from breeding programs based on Dentition examinations unless the examination reveals the dog has a disqualification as stated in the UKC Breed Standard.

# ALASKAN KLEE KAI DENTITION RESEARCH

**AKK DENTITION Report for December 2015**  
**Sheila Sweet**  
**Ongoing**

## RESOURCES

Data for this initial research was gathered from licensed veterinary examination using the OFA Application for Dentition Database form with proper signatures and microchip verification for each Alaskan Klee Kai examined.

Following are links to information regarding Australian Shepherd and other web sites discussing canine dentition for other breeds. Australian Shepherds have been noted as having missing teeth in many dogs in the breed and offer breeding recommendations for our breed to consider depending on the extent of the concern in our breed based on continued research and data gathering.

- <http://www.ashgi.org/home-page/genetics-info/faq/dental>
- <https://www.asca.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=3247>
- <http://www.examiner.com/article/pet-dental-health-month-missing-teeth>

## EVALUATION

In an effort to gather verified documentation to support or refute this concern, reports for 17 Alaskan Klee Kai examined by a licensed Veterinarian for dentition using the OFA Application for Dentition Database examination form available on the OFA web site have been obtained in the past two months. They will be submitted to OFA to be included in their database for the breed. The findings do support the concern that Alaskan Klee Kai do have a large percentage with missing teeth, all of which have been pre-molars thus far.

## CONCLUSION

### INITIAL RESEARCH FINDING:

- Examination data from 17 Alaskan Klee Kai has been gathered to date.
- Ages of AKK examined range from 1-11 years of age.
- Six AKK between the ages of 2-11 were found to have full dentition at time of exam.
- Eleven AKK between the ages of 1-5 years were found to be missing at least one pre-molar.

Teeth missing for each dog are as follows:

- Dog 1 missing tooth 305 right lower first pre-molar,
- Dog 2 missing tooth 306 right lower second pre-molar,

## **ALASKAN KLEE KAI DENTITION RESEARCH**

**AKK DENTITION Report for December 2015**

**Sheila Sweet**

**Ongoing**

- **Dog 3 missing teeth 305 and 306 right lower first and second pre-molar,**
- **Dog 4, Dog 5 and Dog 6 missing teeth 105 and 205 both upper first pre-molars,**
- **Dog 7 and Dog 8 missing teeth 305 and 405 both lower first pre-molars,**
- **Dog 9 missing teeth 107 and 207 both upper third pre-molars,**
- **Dog 10 missing teeth 105, 205, 305, and 405 all four first pre-molars,**
- **Dog 11 missing teeth 107 and 207 both upper third pre-molars as well as missing teeth 105 and 405 first pre-molars upper and lower both on left side.**