

Iatrogenic dental lesion caused by “dental disarming” in Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*).

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The “dental disarming” in wild animals consists in cutting the canine teeth in the cervical line of the tooth to let them as long as the incisive teeth. The purpose of this technique is to eliminate the dangerous potential represented by the canine teeth, which can lead the animal to lethal accidents or serious injuries caused by the animal bite. A female chimpanzee, belonging to a circus, was referred to the Laboratory of Comparative Dentistry of FMVZ – USP, where its oral cavity was examined and the animal was maintained in an anesthetic plan by Sevoflurane. During the oral evaluation, it was seen that three canine teeth had passed through crown reductions without specific endodontic procedure. However, these teeth were apparently healthy because of the tertiary dentine (reactional) produced by the dental pulp, which occluded the root canal and minimized the traumatic pulp exposure effects. Nevertheless, the higher canine tooth was not with the same reactional pattern and, probably, presented an infectious and inflammatory endodontic lesion that led to a pulp necrosis, root reabsorption and gingival hyperplasia. These last signs were observed during the oral cavity clinical exam. As treatment, the root of the teeth was extracted, after intra-oral radiography, because the direct inspection of this dental element was not possible due to gingival hyperplastic reaction which was covering the teeth. There are ethical elements involved in these “dental disarming” procedures, once they are mutilating to the animal and this procedure has to be accomplished exclusively by veterinarians. Even after this procedure is performed, aggressive individuals are still capable of inflicting serious damage, including mortal injury. "Dental disarming" should be reserved as a procedure of last resort.