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Oh no, there's a swelling under your dog's eve? Did you know that this swelling could indicate a tooth root abscess? In dogs and cats, the side cheek teeth have very deep roots. When dogs and cats have severe dental disease, the bacteria can travel from the mouth up the tooth root to create a pocket of infection around the root, which we call an abscess. This region of infection and inflammation gets bigger over time, and with the upper cheek teeth, you may notice a swelling or bump developing just under the eye. The treatment involves removal of the diseased tooth and antibiotics to fight the infection. The best way to prevent a tooth root abscess is regular dental care to reduce bacteria and plaque formation in the mouth, both at home and with your veterinarian.

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