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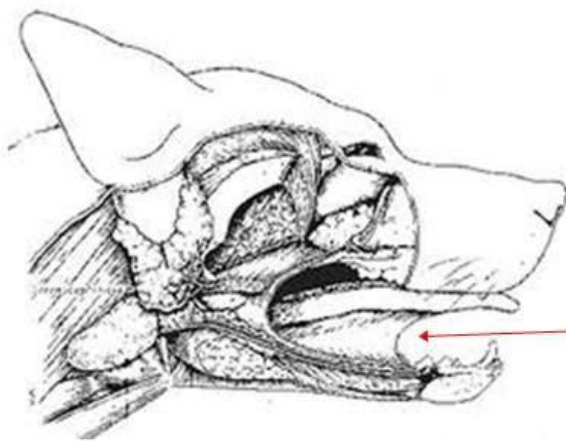
A worm under the dog's tongue.

Content curtesy of Drlarry





There is no a 'worm' under your dog's tongue – don't cut it!



**DO NOT cut anywhere
under the tongue**

There is culture belief that there is a 'worm' that lives underneath the tongue of dogs ("go ntsha lelengwana").

This I heard of ever since I was a boy – local tribal myth – the same as to dry a spider and let the dog eat it will make the dog aggressive.

It is believed that if this 'worm' is cut out the dog will be more aggressive, grow strong, get better if it is sick, put on weight and be also be a good hunter.

There no worm underneath the dog's tongue - so what is under the tongue?

The 'worm' is, in fact, a band of tissue called a "frenulum" (pronounced fren-yuh-lum) that lies directly under the tongue to hold the tongue down.

People also have this piece of tissue under their tongues but it is not as well developed as in dogs.

A dog work with its tong and drink water with their tong {see video clip of dog drinking water on this website}.

If you lift up your tongue it is very easy to feel this band of tissue with your finger.

The dog's tongue is like a long muscle and is one of the most important working parts of its body.

Besides eating food and drinking water and responding to touch and pain, the tongue acts like a long fan to cool the dog down.

Cutting the tongue will only result in pain with no gain.

Anecdotal evidence where cutting the 'worm' has brought relief to the dog might be due to a lot of different factors.

Veterinary science tells us the procedure itself is a placebo at best.

If a dog that refuses to eat or is weak may suffer from parasites such as worms, or might be sick.

Best to have the dog checked over by a vet.

You are showing us something different mate... What you are showing us is not what "some people" cut out.

Myth: Worm under a dog's tongue.

(Source NSPCA South Africa)

Fact! >> Unfortunately this myth is still believed today and causes untold pain and suffering to dogs.

It is thought that dogs have a worm under their tongues and the removal of which is called 'worming' and is supposed to prevent the dog from biting, should the dog ever go crazy.

It results in the cutting out of the "**lingual fraenum**", which, unfortunately contracts and curls up like a worm strengthening the belief that it is indeed a worm.

With this ligament cut out the dog has no control over his tongue and this can result in the dog dying due to severe swelling of the mouth and an inability of the animal to drink or eat.