



A GUIDE TO: **DENTALS AND THE COMMON ISSUES**



Professional



Caring

WHY ARE REGULAR DENTALS SO IMPORTANT

Younger and older horses may require more frequent dental checks, ideally every 6 months. This may be more frequent if there are any issues. An annual dental check is recommended for horses with normal mouth pathology. However, we will be able to advise you on the frequency required for your horse.

- To keep your horse or pony comfortable - dental issues can be very painful
- To help your horse's responsiveness and comfort whilst being ridden
- Poor dentistry can cause other issues such as infections, weight loss, risk of choke and colic
- To help pick up issues early on - prevention is better than cure!

DENTALS AND HORSE HEALTH PROGRAMME

An annual dental examination and rasp is included with the many benefits of our Horse Health Programme, a health plan which is designed to provide everything you need to help keep your horse fit & healthy, spreading the cost in easy monthly payments. Give us a call to sign up or to book your horse's dental examination



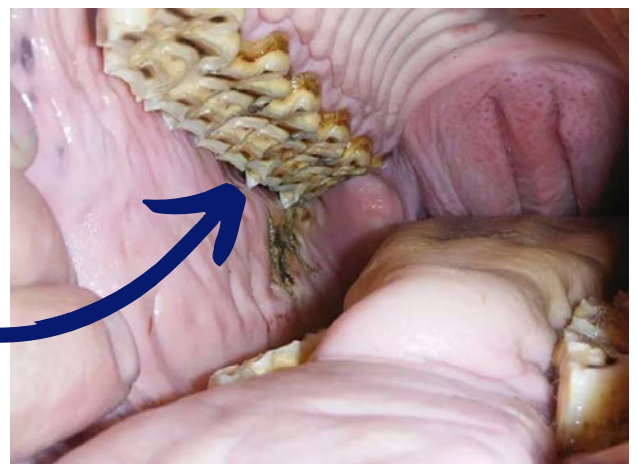
COMMON EQUINE DENTAL ISSUES

SHARP EDGES:

Without regular dentition, the molar teeth may develop sharp edges, which can cause discomfort, ulcers and lacerations to the inside of the mouth.

Sharp edges known as enamel cusps will naturally develop over time as the horses teeth erupt. These sharp cusps will often cause soreness, lacerations and ulcers to the sides of the cheeks and to the tongue

This picture shows the sharp edges and ulcers in a horses mouth.





A GUIDE TO: COMMON DENTAL ISSUES



Professional



Caring

HOOKS & RAMPS

Hooks and ramps develop due to a misalignment of the rows of molars in the top and bottom of the mouth. Where part of a molar has no contact with the opposing tooth above or below, it will not be worn down correctly, forming a hook or ramp. Hooks and ramps are usually found on the first premolar and last molar, and can cause periodontal disease.

DIASTEMAS/PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Diastemas are gaps between teeth often causing food to become trapped in these areas. This presents a problem as the food will rot, causing decay and gingival recession (periodontal disease). Horses with diastemas can often be seen quidding, may have smelly breath and sometimes suffer facial swelling.

INFUNDIBULAR CARIES

Infundibular caries occur where there is a decay of the infundibulum (the cementum-filled cup on the surface of the tooth) due to a lack of cementum. This causes food to pack into the centre of the tooth and can cause it to fracture if not treated. The tooth can be filled to prevent further decay and save the tooth.

WOLF TEETH

Wolf teeth are commonly found on the upper jaw and occasionally on the lower jaw. They can often interfere with the bit and cause problems. In most cases, wolf teeth are easily removed by the team at Severn Edge Equine with the horse having local analgesia and sedation.



QUIDDING:

Quidding is where your horse drops food from their mouth and has difficulty chewing. They often look like they have an exaggerated movement of the jaw whilst eating.

One of the causes of quidding is when food packs into gaps between the teeth. These gaps are known as diastemas. Other dental issues such as broken teeth may also cause quidding.

If you think your horse is quidding, we recommend that they are examined by one of the team at Severn Edge Equine, who will be able to identify the cause of the problem and provide the appropriate treatment