
DENTISTRY

WHY SHOULD I HAVE MY HORSES TEETH CHECKED?

Horse's teeth continuously erupt throughout their lives. In the wild they would be naturally worn down by the rough grazing they live on however, today domestic animals eat much softer grazing and feed hence they need their teeth routinely rasped to prevent sharp points and overgrowths developing. It has also been shown that dental problems are linked to colic, weight loss, choke and sinusitis so routine dentistry can help prevent these from occurring.



WHEN SHOULD I HAVE MY HORSE'S TEETH CHECKED?

All horses should have a routine dental check annually, however some may need checking more frequently if specific problems are identified. If you have a new horse and you are unsure of its dental history, it is a good idea to have their teeth checked as soon as possible so problems can be identified before the horse starts showing symptoms.



WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF HAVING MY HORSE SEDATED?

We routinely use sedation for our dentistry as there is significant benefit to the horse. Firstly, it allows a complete and thorough examination of the whole mouth as the horse remains stiller and more amenable. Secondly, it is safer for your horse, the handler, and the vet as there will be equipment inside and around the horse's mouth throughout the examination. Lastly, sedation reduces any stress that may be involved in a dental exam.



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WHAT DENTAL ISSUES CAN MY HORSE HAVE?

Common problems within the horse's mouth include diastemas (gaps which form between teeth in which food can pack and cause gum disease and tooth decay), gingivitis (gum disease), sharp points or hooks on teeth, mouth ulcers and caries (tooth cavities). Other less common problems that can also be identified on examination are tooth fractures, foreign bodies (e.g. sticks, grass seeds), missing teeth, as well as others.



All these issues affect your horse's comfort and performance, however if they are detected and treated early, we can avoid more complex (and expensive!) issues developing. Diastemas often develop as horses age as the base of the tooth becomes narrower leaving gaps between the teeth at the gum level. Caries are also more common as the horse ages but treating them early can prevent them deteriorating into fractured teeth or root infections.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM DENTISTRY WITH TYRRELLS?

Our experienced vets take time to perform a thorough examination of the mouth and teeth. We routinely use the latest equipment (a battery powered diamond burr) to reduce overgrowths and sharp points to improve the teeth's alignment. Specialist equipment such as mirrors, picks and probes are also used to identify problems which may otherwise go unnoticed.



THE COST OF OUR STANDARD THOROUGH DENTAL EXAMINATION AND RASP INCLUSIVE OF SEDATION, VAT AND A DENTAL CHART IS £80.00 (JUNE 2024).