

DENTAL - DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that 60% of the horses surrendered to us with behavioural issues are because they have an underlying dental issue?

Did you know that it's extremely important to have your horses teeth checked by an equine dentist or qualified vet at least every 12 months?

Birth – 18 months

Your horse should be checked every 12 months for:

1. Any issues / defects the horse may have been born with.
2. Proper development of teeth.
3. Incisor alignment.
4. Sharp points on teeth.
5. Improper position and number of teeth.
6. Abnormal wear of teeth.

18 - 52 months

Your horse should be checked every 6 months for

1. Cysts in the gums over permanent teeth.
2. Gingivitis.
3. Periodontal Disease.
4. Loose or infected caps.
5. Sharp points on the premolar, molar and wolf teeth.
6. Unequal growth of permanent incisors.
7. Removal of wolf teeth if the horse's future is to be ridden.

4 - 10 years

Your horses should be checked every 12 months for:

1. Contact and balance of bite surface.
2. Removing sharp points on cheek teeth.
3. Balanced jaw.
4. Balanced incisors.

10 - 18 years

Your horse should be checked every 12 months for:

1. Abnormalities of wear.
2. Wave Mouth.
3. Sharp points and hooks.
4. Balance of tooth alignment.
5. Length of canine teeth.

18 and older

Your horse should be checked every 6 months (sometime every 3 months)

1. Periodontal disease – 70% increase.
2. Tartar accumulation.
3. Gingivitis.
4. Tooth Loosening.
5. Loss of grinding surface.
6. Need for geriatric diet.
7. Sharp hooks and points.
8. Balance between upper and lower jaw.

Signs of Dental Problems

There are many signs that your horse has a dental issue. Changes in behaviour, changes in eating and drinking habits, weight loss, becoming head shy, abnormal head carriage, foul smell from mouth and nose, just to name a few.

We have had many horses surrendered to us as dangerous just to find out they had dental issues and were in pain. It's extremely important to check your horse's teeth regularly.

This is generalised information and should not be treated as veterinary advice. Please consult your own vet regarding the specific treatment of your own horse.

Written by

Amanda Vella

President,

Save A Horse Australia Horse Rescue & Sanctuary