



# Equine Dentistry

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## What sorts of dental issues can horses have?

Common clinically significant issues within the horse's mouth include diastemas (gaps which form between teeth in which food can pack and cause gum disease and tooth decay), general gum disease and caries (tooth cavities). These issues can affect your horses comfort and performance, however if they are detected and treated early we can avoid more complex (and expensive!) issues developing.

Horses teeth erupt continuously throughout their lifetime, this means sharp edges will continuously develop as the horse wears the tooth during chewing. Untreated it is common for sharp points to cause ulceration of the cheeks and problems with the contact when ridden. Diastemas often develop as the horse ages 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 tooth decay need not lead on to fractured teeth or root infections as if they are restored early we can help to minimise further decay. Dental problems are also linked to colic, choke, weight loss and sinusitis.

## What can I expect from Dentistry with Tyrrells?

A Tyrrells dental is not just a quick rasp to remove sharp edges. Our experienced vets take time to perform a thorough examination of the mouth and teeth. Using equipment such as mirrors and picks we are able to look at the mouth in detail and detect dental issues which may otherwise go unnoticed. We routinely use the latest equipment - a battery-powered diamond burr - in conjunction with traditional hand rasps to enable us to correct overgrowths and misalignments more effectively and ensure the best finish possible.

## What is the benefit of having my horse sedated?

We routinely use sedation for our dentistry, the benefit to the horse is threefold. Firstly it allows a complete and thorough examination the whole mouth while the horse is completely still ensuring any issues are detected and the best possible job is given. Secondly your horses safety is increased as any horse can move suddenly which should be avoided when working with tools in the mouth and thirdly any stress your horse may experience is reduced.

To book a dental appointment with Tyrrells Equine simply contact the clinic on 01763 287744 / [office@tyrrellsequine.co.uk](mailto:office@tyrrellsequine.co.uk).

The cost of our standard thorough dental examination and rasp is *only £59.70* inclusive of sedation, VAT and a dental chart. (April 2015)

