



Totally Equine:
The launch of
VetEquine's first
newsletter

- Up-to-date Veterinary Information
- Veterinary Specials
- For more information look at our website: www.vetequine.co.nz

In This Issue:

Dental Care:
a waste of money...?

Abnormal
Wear Patterns

VetEquine
Winter Special

Dental Care: *a waste of money...?*

Wild horses never needed their teeth 'done'...

First of all because of the change of diet that you feed your horse compared to what wild horses ate, second because of horse breeding that does not necessarily select on "good teeth" and last of all because your horse has a longer lifespan due to your good husbandry care, your horse definitely needs dental care.

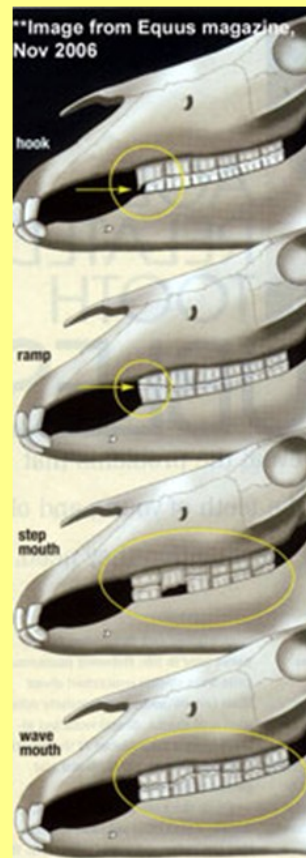
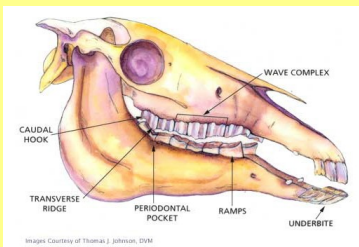
The Power Float removes too much tooth...

With routine dental care, only the abnormal and likely disruptive and painful part of the tooth is removed. Because horses teeth continually erupt, floating of teeth will not cause premature loss of teeth.

My horse is quiet, no need for a gag or a sedative...

Many dental abnormalities occur in the back of the mouth. As these molars are almost an arm length away from the mouth opening, a good dental examination without a gag is impossible. Most horses find it very uncomfortable to be touched that close to the throat

area. A sudden movement of the head, because of this discomfort can not only hurt the vets arm, it can do severe damage to your horse's palate and gum.



**Image from Equus magazine, Nov 2006

"...horse breeding does not necessarily select on "good teeth"..."

Abnormal Wear Patterns

Hooks: sharp protrusions that develop on teeth when an overbite ("parrot-mouth"), underbite ("monkey-jaw") or other dental deformity causes an imperfect meeting of top and bottom arcades.

Ramps: typically premolars with a slope like a ski jump. Ramps can cut or scrape the tongue or cheek, especially when the horse is bitten.

Step Mouth: a gap in the opposite arcade usually initiates this abnormality.

Wave Mouth: a severely restricting abnormality that occurs when two or more teeth in an arcade are high,

VetEquine Winter Special

A dental check and routine floating using a metal gag, halogen mouth illumination, manual and Power Floats, including regular sedation and a free Faecal Egg Count.

Only \$95.00* (excl. mileage)

Tip: organize your friends, neighbours or pony club and share the mileage

**Price does not include correction of advanced Hooks, Step Mouth or Wave Mouth or extra sedation for difficult horses*

**Special ends 31st of July 2009*