



FACTSHEET

TOOTH EXTRACTION IN HORSES

Horses have 'Hypsodont' teeth, unlike dogs and humans. This means that they have very short exposed crowns and very long reserve crowns, making their extractions difficult and prolonged. It may appear to be a fairly straightforward procedure with very old horses, or teeth which are already very loose. However in most cases this is not the normal finding. We would therefore like to suggest the following advice for your horses well being:

1. After extraction your horse will have had its mouth rinsed out with dilute chlorhexidine. There may be some drops of blood, which is normal. However if there is a copious amount of blood i.e. a pint in ten minutes then you should contact the surgery.
2. Some horses enjoy having their mouths washed out with a hose. This is very beneficial. If they will not tolerate this, we would advise the use of a proprietary mouthwash called 'Equus'.
3. Your horse will have been sedated; therefore all short feed should be withheld for six hours and then should be dampened.
4. Grass is the ideal forage for your horse. However, if that is not possible, we would advise well soaked sugar-beet pulp, grass nuts or high fibre cubes. If possible, hay and haylage should be avoided for ten days.
5. Your horse should have a follow up examination by a veterinary surgeon within ten days. A proper feeding regime should be worked out at this time.
6. Your horse should be covered against Tetanus infection by vaccination. Antibiotics and pain relief may or may not be indicated. Details will be shown on the normal discharge sheet.
7. Exercise is good for your horse. However the use of a bit needs to be considered carefully. It depends on which tooth has been extracted. Each horse is an individual and so the use of a bit should be discussed at the follow up visit recommended.
8. It is vital that your horse receives regular dental treatment by us or another veterinary surgeon if you leave the area. The main purpose for this is to make sure that the tooth opposite to the extracted tooth does not over-erupt.

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