

Dental Care for Your Horse

An interesting experiment to try on yourself is stand with your arms straight out at your side and pick up one leg off the ground. Next, slide one piece of paper between your teeth (just 1 paper thick) and repeat standing with your arms straight out at your side and pick up one leg off the ground. Do things change? How do you think your horse feels when we slide a bit into their mouth? A bit can really change the motion and balance of the animal. Dental care is very important part of the horse's health care. Horse's teeth continually grow throughout their lifetime. Therefore the outside edges of the top teeth and the inside edges of the lower teeth do not get worn down and they develop sharp points. The sharp enamel points can make it difficult for horses to properly chew their food. Also, the sharp enamel points can cause sores in the horse's mouth. The sores also can cause behavior problems in horses especially when a bit is placed in the horse's mouth.

Floating is the most common dental procedure veterinarians perform on horses. Floating is the process of rasping or filing down the teeth to remove the sharp enamel points and create an even chewing plane.

The first dental floating could be done as early as six months of life. Then the teeth should be floated every 6 months until the age of 5 years old. By the time the horse is 5 years old, it should have shed all its baby teeth and have a full set of permanent teeth. Horses from 5 to about 15 years of age usually need to be floated one time a year. Older horses should be checked every 6 months, especially if they are missing teeth or have poor alignment. Proper dental care will not only make a positive influence on your horse's health and performance, it can add 5-15 years to a horse's life. To read the complete article <http://www.vipsvet.net/dental-care.html>