# **EQUINE DENTALS**

TROY VETERINARY CLINIC

### POWER FLOAT DENTALS

We are happy to announce recent upgrades to our dental capabilities! In the past you have likely observed us using hand floats on your horses' teeth. We now have an Equine PowerFloat®. The PowerFloat® works via the rotating disc on the end to grind away tooth surface and is a great addition to the hand floats we have been using. Along with the PowerFloat® we will be augmenting our prior procedure of blind floating. Just as we would expect a human dentist to have our mouth open for visual inspection, we feel that our 4-legged friends deserve the same treatment.

#### COMPLETE AND THOROUGH EXAMS

We would encourage you to bring your horse to our clinic so we can use the stocks and have extra hands available, but we are not averse to coming to your farm assuming proper facilities exist. Our general procedure will be to perform a thorough physical exam of the whole horse as well as all dental-associated anatomy. We will then sedate your horse and use a speculum to open the mouth while the head is supported with a harness. We would encourage you to take a peek while we identify any abnormalities present, with the most common being points, hooks, missing teeth, pulp exposure, and pockets between the gum and tooth. This is only possible under proper sedation and an open mouth.



**EQUINE DENTAL SPECULUM** 

"OUR GENERAL PROCEDURE WILL BE TO PERFORM A THOROUGH PHYSICAL EXAM OF THE WHOLE HORSE AS WELL AS ALL DENTAL-ASSOCIATED ANATOMY"

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**NOVEMBER 11, 2013** 

## **TREATMENT**

Once we have documented any issues we will start addressing them. One thing that must be kept in mind is how much tooth surface we can safely take during a dental procedure. Taking any more than a few millimeters will expose the pulp of a tooth root and leave the tooth at risk of either forming an abscess or dieing altogether. Remember, it likely took years for a problem to develop and may need several treatments to resolve the issue As such, some horses may require multiple dentals spaced 3-6 months apart based on age.



PROPER FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ARE KEY

## SIGNS THAT A HORSE NEEDS A DENTAL

- Losing weight
- Dropping Feed
- Facial Swelling
- Large Pieces of Hay in Manure
- Performance Issues
  - Head shaking
  - Tossing
  - o Holding head to one side
  - Rearing/bucking with a bit



TAKING OFF THE POINTS WITH THE POWERFLOAT®

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VISION IS KEY FOR A PROPER

"IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS

NEWSLETTER FINDS YOU AND YOUR

HORSE WELL AND READY FOR A

DENTAL EXAMINATION. FEEL FREE

TO CALL US ANYTIME TO SCHEDULE

AN APPOINTMENT OR ASK

QUESTIONS"

# COMMON MYTHS ASSOCIATED WITH EQUINE DENTALS

- Myth: Your Horse may be sore for a few days
- Fact: A proper dental should only remove an appropriate amount of tooth surface and not cause residual pain
- Myth: Sedation is only for bad horses or inexperienced veterinarians
- Fact: A proper dental examination requires visualization. If your horse is acting up, it likely has a painful area in its mouth and this needs the sedation to reduce stress and allow a proper job to be done.
- Myth: It costs too much for a veterinarian to do dental work
- Fact: Would you pay for a dentist who never actually looked in your mouth.
   Remember, only licensed veterinarians can sedate your horse. We have years of training and while we are focused on the mouth, we are also evaluating your whole horse
- Myth: Power tools are dangerous
- Fact: The power float used by veterinarians with proper sedation and training results in a better more consistent job every time.

# TROY VETERINARY CLINIC DENTAL PROMOTION

November 11, 2013



Large or small - we love them all

## **DENTAL SPECIAL**

BRING THIS PAGE AND
SCHEDULE A VISIT WITH ONE
OF OUR VETERINARIANS FOR
AN IN-HOUSE DENTAL. FREE
DEWORMER AND OFFICE CALL
FEES WAIVED FROM NOW
UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER
2013

# TROY VETERINARY CLINIC DENTAL PROMOTION



Large or small - we love them all

## **GIVE ONE TO A FRIEND!**

## **DENTAL SPECIAL**

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