

EQUINE DENTISTRY

Emery Animal Health

Is your horse fighting the bit? Is he dropping food when he eats? Is he losing weight? Maybe he needs his teeth checked. Next to a horse's feet, their teeth are the next most important part of their good health and comfort. Many horses need dental work much earlier in their lives than most people realize. As two year olds, most horses are being broke to ride. This may be the best time to start them on a regular dental checkup. At the age of three, most horses are losing caps that usually fall out on their own but sometimes need to be elevated from the new tooth that has grown underneath it.

A horse's teeth have sharp points and waves that need to be ground down to eliminate an uneven bite which causes sores on the sides of the mouth and tongue. This is called "Floating".

Dr. Jensen performs a "float" with an instrument that has a small round disc on the end of it with a rough texture similar to the old methods' rasps. This instrument is called a Power Float. (pictured below) The disc spins around and grinds rough edges and waves to a smooth, even tooth surface.



Dr Jensen finishes with a "bit set" which is a smooth groove that the bit can sit in preventing pain when pressure is put on the reins.

This procedure is much less stressful on the horse (not to mention the vet) and only takes a few moments to complete with much better results than the old technique using a rasp

The horse is given a mild sedative, the mouth is rinsed thoroughly, a speculum is placed to hold the mouth open, the head is tied for easier access to all teeth, and usually within 5-15 minutes the procedure is done and the horse is ready to go as soon as the sedation has worn off enough for the horse to travel.

A tetanus shot is recommended and included unless the horse has received a booster within the past 3 months.

The cost of a routine float including sedation, dental exam, float, and tetanus is **\$46.75**. The cost may go up slightly according to the extent and severity of the problems and the time that it takes to complete.

Your horse's health and well-being is important to us as we know it is to you. Please take the time to consider learning more about the importance of maintaining your animals healthy and pain-free mouth.

For more information on equine dentistry, please call us or visit our website.

435-381-2539

www.emeryanimal.net

E-mail: hoofnpaws@etv.net