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## **Dental Care**

Routine dental care is an important factor in maintaining your horse's health. Most horses that suffer from dental issues will exhibit difficulty chewing and sometimes lose feed from their mouth when eating. Others may be more affected on a performance level. Head tossing and bucking under saddle, along with other biting issues, can commonly be related to problems with the teeth. Unfortunately, there are some horses that learn to adapt to their discomfort and may show no signs whatsoever that they have major dental problems. With this in mind, it is important to have your horse's teeth checked at least once a year by your veterinarian. Doing so could mean a longer, healthier, and happier life for your partner and best friend.

BRVS uses the Swiss Power Float system to perform dental work on your horse. The Swiss Float is a small rotary disk on the end of a long power-driven shaft. This unique system allows for each tooth to receive individual attention. Sharp enamel points on upper and lower cheek teeth can be easily removed; large hooks that can form on upper and lower molars can be reduced; and uneven arcades can be leveled. Upper premolars can be rolled to allow for better bit comfort, and canines can be reduced to decrease interference with the bit when bridling. The speed and precision of the Swiss Float can address all of your horse's dental problems in just a short 10-15 minute session.

Periodontal disease is rampant in horses over the age of 15. If left untreated it can lead to premature tooth loss and dental pain. Our goal is to help the horse and keep the teeth healthy as long as we can. We provide periodontal treatments that we've found to be very effective in resolving bacterial pockets that can loosen teeth and affect systemic health. We use a paste made of dental impression material impregnated with antibiotic which makes a stable source of antibiotic that is slowly released directly at the site of infection.

Digital Radiography, which can be done on-site at your farm, has been very useful in identifying diseased teeth, problems with the roots and allows us fast action treating the dental disease.

Wolf teeth, small vestigial teeth adjacent to the molars, can cause biting problems as they are shallow rooted. We extract these on most horses to minimize discomfort with biting.