



# What's Up Doc?

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## Sometimes You Hypsodont, Sometimes You Do

(Equine Dental Health)

Good dental health is vital to your horse's overall wellbeing. Equine health has grown and advanced immensely over the last few decades. Horses are living longer, largely due to these advances. According to current research, equine teeth that have been well cared for from an early age grow more evenly and require less work later, as well as wear more slowly and therefore last longer.



Horses teeth are categorized as hypsodont; meaning they have high crowned teeth and short roots. Their teeth continue to erupt throughout most of their life. Equine teeth are designed to grind down long-stemmed roughage which naturally contains grit. Gums and teeth must work properly for horses to digest food effectively. If the mouth is not in good working order, horses may be more prone to chronic colic, weight loss as well as other nutritional deficiencies.

As in humans, dental problems can also cause extreme pain. Horses that are experiencing dental pain will not be working at their peak potential. Possible signs indicating dental related issues include head tossing, fidgeting with the bit, rearing, and running backwards.

Not all dental problems are obvious to the untrained eye, which is why it is important to have annual dental exams for your horse. Dentals are important even for young horses, as they can have issues such as impacted teeth. Finding and correcting developmental problems at a young age is crucial to making sure teeth are in proper order as the horse ages. Every horse is different regarding how regularly they need dental work. Veterinarians can help determine the best approach for regular exams. As the teeth erupt, it is important for the teeth to have proper conformation. If teeth are not worn evenly opposing teeth can produce overgrowth, and as a result can interfere with how a horse chews.

It is important to have horse's teeth examined by a licensed veterinarian. A veterinarian will be able to do a full exam and correct horses teeth with a professional eye. Veterinarians are trained to be able to remove teeth, administer proper sedatives, and prescribe medications whereas dental technicians cannot. November is Dental Health Month at Countryside Large Animal Vet. Schedule your dental float appointment soon!!



## Where are they now?

In 2014 Dr. Mary Hoffmann came to us as our Veterinary Intern. She had just graduated from Iowa State Veterinary program. Once she finished her one-year internship at Countryside the owners decided they needed to keep her on. She connected with staff and clients alike and added a fresh touch to the clinic. Dr. Hoffmann has now been at our clinic for three and a half years, helping the clinic to grow. She is not afraid to get her hands dirty, volunteering for all manner of appointments. One of her favorite parts of the job is that there is always a variety of veterinary

work and animals. Foals are her favorite part of veterinary practice, but she also really enjoys Countryside's state of the art facilities and equipment as well as the staff, equine reproduction and dentals. She has become an integral part of the Countryside team and a highly respected doctor to our clientele.

# November is Dental Month!

**FREE Dental Exams!**

**FREE Office Call for Dental**

**FREE Sheath Cleaning For Geldings**  
(with float appointment)

**Call to Schedule your Appointment  
Today!**



*Countryside*  
Large Animal Veterinary Service, PLLC

**(970)351-7045**