

TEETH - Taking A Bite Out Of The Mystery

I'm going to surprise many of you Horse Owners with this next statement: *Horses have Teeth!* Some of you folks probably think I'm trying to be funny. I swear, that was not my intent.

You might be surprised to learn how many people I have dealt with over the years who act as if Horses don't have teeth. It could be they just forget about dental care, or have never been told the importance of proper dental care, or they just don't know Horses have teeth. Having been bitten more times than I care to remember, I'll testify in court: Horses have TEETH.

Why is dental care so important? You know the old saying "no hoof no horse"? Well, the same applies to teeth. Another factor with teeth is they can affect how a hoof grows. Let me say that again, a Horse's teeth can affect how the hoof grows. I am not talking about the things a horse chews and eats. I'm talking about the structure of the mouth and teeth directly affect the alignment of the poles. This alignment affects the spine. The spine affects legs. The legs affect the feet. And the feet affect the hoof.

Here's a thought: If your Horse constantly has hoof wall problems it may not be the hoof. The root of the problem may be the teeth! Think about that for a second. If a Horse cannot chew in the figure 8 pattern they are designed to because of ledges on the molars, this will adversely affect how the jaw bone interacts with the poles. Over time this misalignment will cause spine problems. Once the spine is out of whack, the feet have no choice but to grow hoof wall to compensate for unequal weight distribution.

All the special shoes or trims in the world are not going to fix this problem. This Horse needs a qualified DENTIST that understands "mouth balance" and how that mouth balance plays a role in a harmonic balance of the entire Equine System. I hope this has you thinking.....

Now, are you ready for this mind twister? A Farrier can RUIN good teeth with consistent poor work on the hind feet. Nope, I swear I have not lost my mind. This information is provable.

Let me explain: Hind feet that are not balanced will cause the leg muscles, tendons, ligaments and bones to become "unbalanced." We all know the hind leg is connected to the hip bone and that's the next victim of this imbalance. The



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hip bone is connected to the back bone (spine), which is the next victim of this poor hind feet hoof care.

The back bone is connected to the neck bones and guess what? The neck is the next victim. The neck bone is connected to the head bone (skull) and it is the next victim of this imbalance. The head bone is connected to the jaw bone (mandibles). And once the jaw bone is misaligned, the teeth will wear in an adverse manner.

Think of it this way: EVERYTHING on a Horse is connected to EVERYTHING and if one place gets out of whack, and is not dealt with, sooner or later EVERYTHING is going to be out of whack. Once this happens the best trainer in the world can do nothing to calm this "ill" Horse. It's not a brain issue. It's his body that needs attention from dentist, massage therapist, chiropractors, farriers, and anyone else that help BALANCE THE WHOLE HORSE.



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