What is EOTRH?

It is a syndrome in older horses that results in resorptive lesions of the incisors and sometimes canine teeth. There is currently no known cause for this condition.

As the disease progresses, the roots of the incisors start to resorb (or basically dissolve). Some horses also develop hypercementosis, or bulb-like swellings around the roots of these teeth. This may be the body’s response to try to stabilize these teeth.

Eventually, the affected teeth become infected and can become loose or even fracture. This can become a very painful condition for these horses and can result in weight loss, difficulty in the bridle, and change in attitude. Many older horses are fairly stoic and don’t always exhibit obvious outward signs of pain until the clinical disease is quite progressed.

Our goal is to diagnose these horses at an earlier stage to prevent pain, infection, and weight loss. Treatment of this condition typically involves extraction of the affected teeth. Horses do quite well without their incisors, since their cheek teeth are their main grinding and chewing teeth.

Please contact us if you have further questions!

We offer full service dental care for all of your horses. We provide services from routine dentals to advanced dentistry such as fillings, endodontics, periodontal therapies and oral surgery. We have the capability to perform on-farm digital radiography and sinoscopy.

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What is the treatment for EOTRH?
Extraction of affected teeth is the recommended treatment at this time. Horses with advanced disease may require extraction of all incisors.

Can my horse continue to eat normally if his incisors are extracted?
Yes. Following extractions, we generally recommend a softened diet for a few weeks, but these horses can easily continue to eat hay and even graze. Their lips take over the function of tearing off grass, and by watching them eat, you’d never know their incisors are missing.

What about riding?
Following extraction, we ask that you keep a bit out of their mouths for a few weeks. After that, you can resume normal riding.

What will his appearance be like?
His outward appearance won’t change much. Some horses will let their tongues hang out of their mouths following extractions, but this can be quite variable.

At left:
These three horses show the difference in appearance of the incisors as the disease progresses.

The horse on the far left is normal.

The horse in the middle had significant radiographic changes, but minimal outward signs of the disease.

The horse on the right showed significant changes both outwardly and radiographically. This horse was experiencing dramatic weight loss and poor attitude. He was successfully treated by extracting all 12 incisors. An immediate improvement in his attitude and appetite were noted. In fact, he was back to grazing the day after his extractions! Within one month he was gaining weight again.

Note: These radiographs correspond to the horses pictured above.