Equine Dental Anatomy

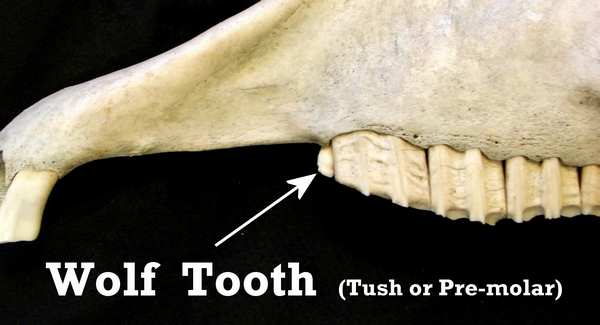
* Horses have hypsodont teeth, meaning they have long crowns divided into two regions: the clinical crown (the short length visible in the mouth) and the reverse crown (the longer portion located under the gums). The reverse crowns are situated in sockets called alveoli, and the surrounding gum prevents feed from accumulating in tiny gaps between the teeth and the alveoli.



* Horse is anisognathic, which means the upper and lower jaws are different widths
* The maxilla (the upper jaw or cheek) is about 30% wider than the mandible (the lower jaw), and the maxillary teeth are slightly wider than the mandibular teeth. The differing width of the jaws and the chewing motion of the horse leads to formation of sharp enamel points along the buccal edge of the upper cheek teeth and the lingual edge of the lower cheek teeth
* Horses’ teeth grow and erupt continuously throughout their lives, generally at a rate of two to three millimeters per year which continues until the horse has aged into his 20s. This continuous tooth growth is needed to counteract dental wear.
* Young horses develop and erupt 24 deciduous (or baby) teeth, including the incisors and premolars. Starting at about one year of age and continuing approximately through age five, horses sequentially erupt 36 to 44 permanent teeth, including incisors, canine teeth, wolf teeth, premolars, and molars.

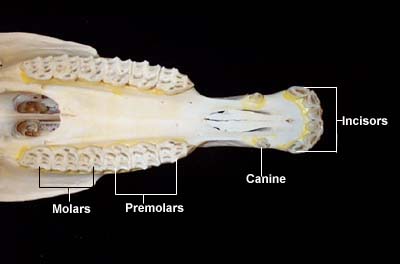
Equine dental anatomy consists of:

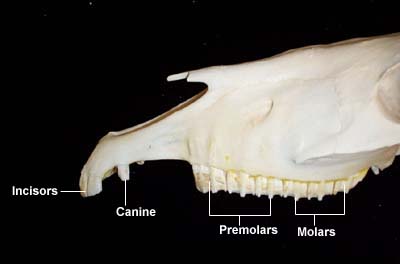
* Incisors which are located at the front of the mouth, visible when you lift up the horse’s lips. The permanent incisors initially have an infundibulum (a crescent-shaped depression in a tooth’s crown) filled with cementum (the tissue that covers much of the visible portion of the tooth). Over time, the infundibulum wears away and disappears when the horse reaches about 15 years of age.
* Canine teeth are located in the space between the incisors and the premolars, with the lower canines generally positioned more rostrally than the upper ones. Male horses generally have four permanent canine teeth. (canine teeth often do not fully develop in mares, however, and might not erupt)
* Wolf teeth are located just mesial to the first cheek teeth in both the upper and lower jaws. Horses can have anywhere from four wolf teeth to none at all; however, it’s common for horses to erupt one or two upper wolf teeth.



* Most caudal group of teeth in an equine mouth are the cheek teeth. Three premolars and three molars make up each row. The cheek teeth are situated close together and form an angled occlusal surface. Similar to the incisors, upper cheek teeth have infundibulae that "wear out" over time leaving very sharp buccal and lingual tooth edges in senior horses.

Maxillary Arcade





Mandibular Arcade

