

BEFORE YOU BLAME THE BIT

Could your horse's mouth be part of the picture?

Changes in behaviour or performance can have many causes. The mouth is simply one important area to rule out, especially because early dental pathology is often easier, less invasive and less expensive to manage.



WHAT MIGHT YOU NOTICE?

- ✓ resistance to contact
- ✓ difficulty accepting the bit
- ✓ one rein suddenly feeling different
- ✓ reluctance to work into the contact
- ✓ a horse that simply feels "different" under saddle
- ✓ head tossing
- ✓ becoming harder to bridle
- ✓ changes through transitions
- ✓ altered chewing or dropping feed

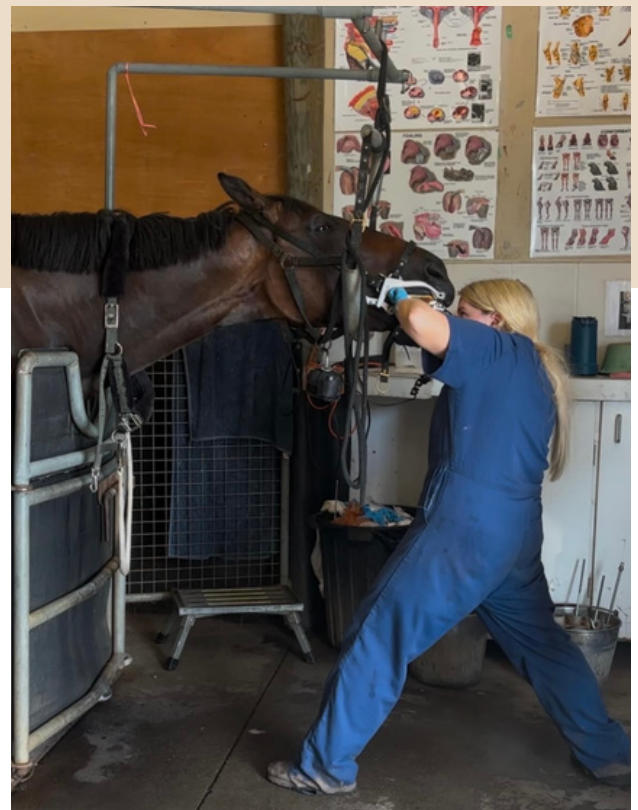
These signs do not automatically mean dental disease.

They are simply reasons the mouth may be worth assessing as part of the whole horse.

WHY THE EXAMINATION MATTERS

The most important part of a dental is the examination itself.

A thorough oral examination allows subtle problems to be identified before they become more advanced. Earlier detection can often mean simpler treatment, less discomfort for the horse and lower costs than waiting until a problem becomes obvious.

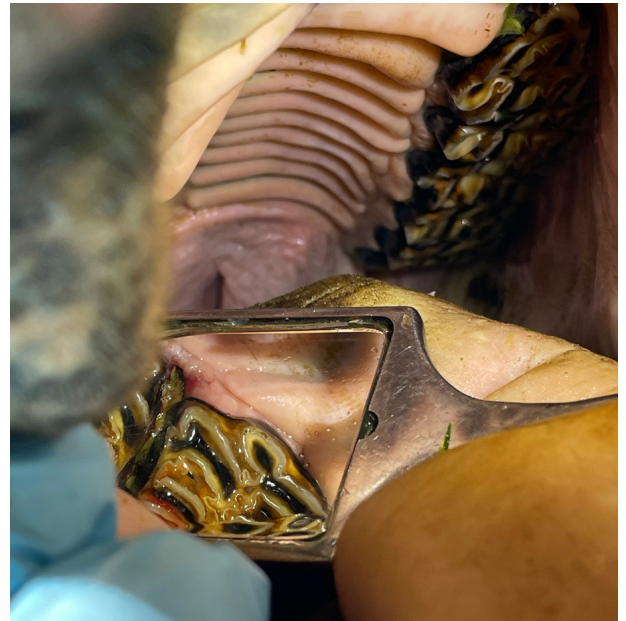


WHY SEDATION IS ESSENTIAL

A horse's tongue is extremely strong and can obscure teeth and gumlines. Horses also have a gag reflex similar to ours. Sedation reduces this reflex and allows the veterinarian to safely move the tongue and cheek aside so the entire mouth, including the very back teeth, can be assessed properly.

Sedation is there primarily to enable the examination, not simply to allow motorised tools to be used.

Sedation is essential because it allows the mouth to be examined safely and thoroughly.



SEE + FEEL

You can feel what you can't see, and see what you can't feel - so you must do both.

A thorough dental assessment combines direct visualisation with palpation so subtle abnormalities are less likely to be missed.

IF TREATMENT IS NEEDED

When treatment is required, motorised equipment allows precise and efficient correction. At Elite Equine, it is used under **direct visualisation**, so treatment is performed while we can see exactly where we are working rather than operating blindly.



Three Elite Equine veterinarians hold Memberships of the ANZCVS in Equine Dentistry, reflecting the additional training and focus we place on this area of horse care.

DON'T ASSUME. RULE OUT DISCOMFORT.

If your horse suddenly feels different in the bridle, in their behaviour or in their performance, their mouth may be one of the areas worth assessing. Even when everything appears normal, routine examination gives us the best opportunity to identify pathology early and manage it before it becomes a bigger problem.

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Elite Equine Veterinarians
Your horse, Our priority.