



**I**

# Veterinary Dentistry

Virtual Open House 2020

University of Illinois

College of Veterinary Medicine



# A Veterinarian's Job:

A veterinarian has many jobs. This includes being an animal's...

- Doctor
- Surgeon
- Radiologist
- Dermatologist
- Cardiologist
- **Dentist**
- And so much more..!



# Dogs & Cats

## Dogs



Dogs have 42 adult teeth.

Puppies have 28 baby teeth.

## Cats



Cats have 30 adult teeth.

Kittens have 26 baby teeth.

# Small & Furry Critters

## Rabbits

Rabbits have 34 teeth.

Their teeth continuously grow & need to be worn down by a proper diet!



## Ferrets



Ferrets have 34 adult teeth.

Kits (baby ferrets) have 30 baby teeth.

## Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs have 20 teeth.

Like rabbits their teeth grow continuously and are prone to malalignment, spurs, and overgrowth if not fed the correct diet!



# Horses & Cows

## Horses

Adult horses have 36-40 teeth.

Their adult teeth grow continuously and dental care is important to make sure their teeth don't develop sharp points from uneven chewing!



## Cows



Cows have 32 teeth.

Cows have a dental pad which means they have no top incisors or canines. Their bottom incisors and canines don't grow continuously (like our's!) but their cheek teeth do.

# Myth Busters

Dentistry Edition



Guess if each statement is a myth or a fact.





# It's normal for my dog or cat to have bad breath.



Myth! While your pet's breath will never be minty fresh, their breath should not be really stinky. If dogs or cats do have bad breath, this could indicate periodontal disease or other tooth issues. **Fun fact:** the doctor word for bad breath is halitosis!

**Helpful tip:** Make sure to take your pets to their veterinarian for annual wellness visits, so the doctor can examine your pet's mouth and teeth to determine if they need a professional teeth cleaning or other medical treatment, such as tooth extractions.



# Dental disease is unavoidable as animals get older.



Myth! By continuing to brush and clean their teeth, we can prevent the buildup of plaque which contains bacteria that can spread through your pet's bloodstream and cause heart disease.

**Helpful tip:** Beginning at 2-3 years old, annual dental cleanings are important to keep your pet at peak health!

# I should brush my dog's teeth at home daily.



Fact! Just like you or me, we should be brushing our dog's teeth daily to keep them clean and healthy! Brushing your pet's teeth prevents the buildup of plaque and tartar.

**Helpful tip:** Start brushing your dog's teeth, when they are a puppy to get them used to it! Use a soft bristle toothbrush or toothbrush made for dogs and a **dog friendly toothpaste!**

**Only brush your dog's teeth if they will tolerate it and with an adult's supervision! Do not get bit!**

**So if I brush my dog's teeth they don't need a professional dental procedure with my veterinarian.**



MYTH! Think about yourself, you brush your teeth two times a day and you still need a dental cleaning at your dentist every 6 months. As much as we try to do a good job brushing our furry friend's teeth, we will always miss spots. Also if your dog already has dental disease, brushing will not cure it. They will require an in depth dental exam, dental x-rays, and treatment.

# Antlers and bones are good chew toys for my dog.



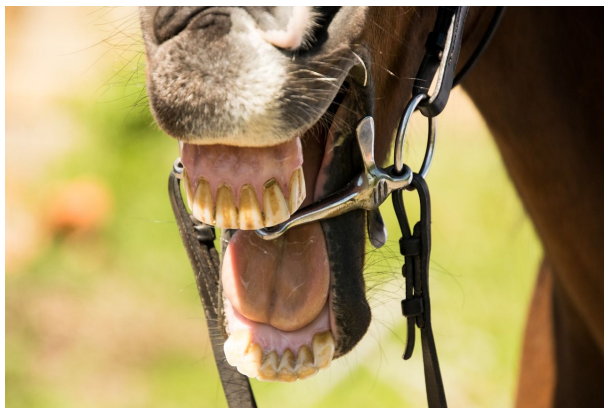
Myth! Antlers and oftentimes bones are too hard for your dog to chew on. They commonly cause broken teeth. A fractured tooth will then need to be extracted with your dog under anesthesia, by your veterinarian.

**Helpful tip:** To determine if a chew toy is safe for your dog to chew on, try to dent it with your fingernail. If your fingernail can dent it, it's safe for your dog's teeth. If it cannot be dented, then the toy is too hard and puts your dog at risk for fractured teeth.

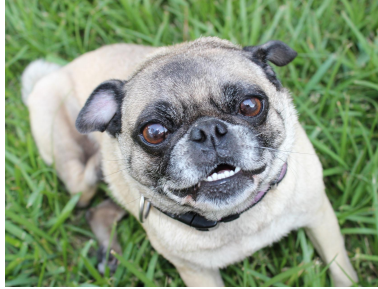
# You can tell how old a horse is by their teeth.



Fact! Based on the eruption time of horse's teeth and the wear over the years, your vet can determine how old a horse is! There are lots of factors to help you tell their age and it can take quite a bit of practice to become good at it.



# All dog breeds are equally prone to developing dental disease.



Myth! Small dog breeds are more likely to develop periodontal disease than large dogs. This is because they have the same number of teeth but they're crowded into a smaller mouth.

**Helpful tip:** This doesn't mean large dogs won't develop dental disease- they still can and do! But they have the benefit of having teeth a bit more spread out.

# Animals in the wild don't brush their teeth so pets shouldn't have to.



Myth! Wild animals tend to have diets that require them to chew their food more, which helps to scrape off plaque buildup. We also want our pets to live longer, healthier lives than they would in the wild and keeping their teeth clean is an important and easy way to ensure that!

**Helpful tip:** Certain pet dental diets are designed to make your pet chew their food instead of swallowing it whole to help keep their teeth crystal clean!



# You can take x-rays of animal teeth!

Fact or Myth?



Fact! Dental x-rays are extremely helpful in diagnosing problem beneath the gum line!

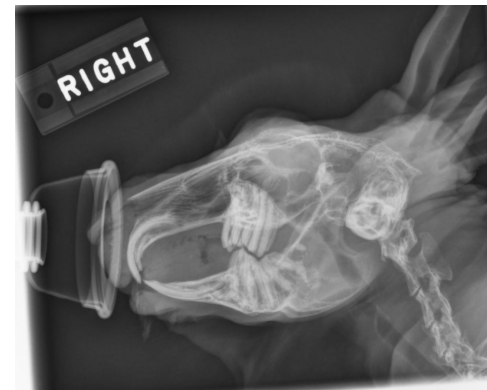
Can you guess which animal these x-rays are from?



Horse



Guinea Pig



Rabbit



Thanks for  
learning with us!