

The horse's mouth

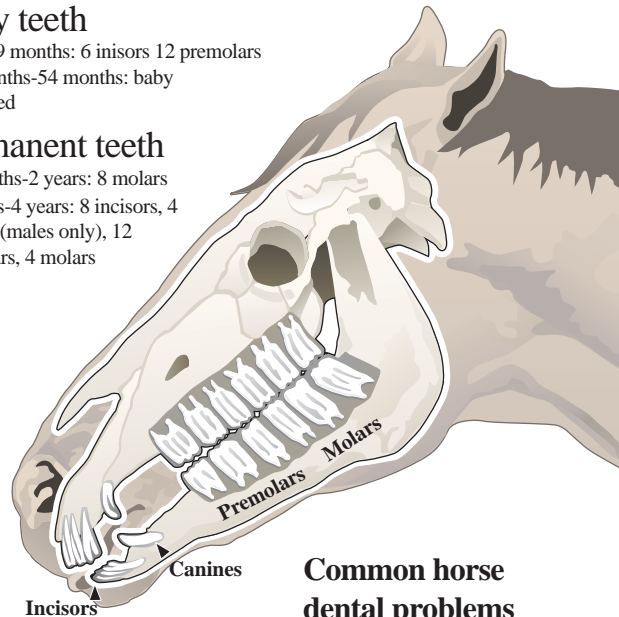
Bill Allen is a dentist who specializes in treating teeth of racehorses. Here's a look at a typical horse's teeth.

Baby teeth

- n Birth-9 months: 6 incisors 12 premolars
- n 19 months-54 months: baby teeth shed

Permanent teeth

- n 9 months-2 years: 8 molars
- n 2 years-4 years: 8 incisors, 4 canines (males only), 12 premolars, 4 molars

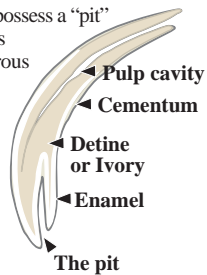


Common horse dental problems

- Sharp enamel points-causing lacerations on cheek or tongue
- Retained caps (unshed baby teeth)
- Long or sharp canine teeth interfering with bit
- Lost broken teeth
- Uneven bite planes
- Worn teeth
- Abnormally long teeth
- Infected teeth and gums
- Misalignment
- Periodontal disease

Upper incisor

Horse incisors possess a "pit" which enhances chewing of fibrous substances, but makes hygiene more difficult.



SOURCE: Encyclopedia Britannica

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