



EQUINE MONTHLY TIPS

Newsletter for Equestrians

March 2015

Top Three Reasons to Float a Horses' teeth

Guidelines From Dr. Thomas G. Loafmann

Part of equine dentistry includes floating horses' teeth, or to smooth or form the horse's teeth with a file. There are three top reasons to float the teeth:

1. **Comfort:** Some horses are tougher than others and do not show symptoms of pain at all, so people assume there are no problems. Sharp edges can hurt the inside of the horse's mouth, causing pain and creating sores on the tongue or cheeks, if teeth are not floated.



2. **Chewing:** Floating teeth is necessary because the horse depends on their teeth for chewing. The horse's front teeth cut the hay and grass, while the top and bottom cheek teeth grind the forage between the flat surfaces in a sideways motion. This grinding action is what breaks down food for digestion. If they have uneven surfaces, the unchewed food will not be digested well.



3. **Overall health:** If your horses' teeth are not floated on a regular basis it can cause serious health issues which are; weight loss, mouth odor, soreness, face swelling, nasal discharge, difficulty swallowing, and even colic.



Teeth floating is a necessity in a horse's life. If the teeth are not regularly floated then the horse will suffer and be in a state of complete discomfort. Make sure to watch for helpful signs that will ensure that your horse needs a dentist appointment. Some signs include: dropping food, weight loss, tossing head, disruptive behavior, and most important sores in mouth.

Background of Equine Medical Dr. Thomas G. Loafman

Mission

The staff here at Equine Medical Associates is a close-knit group dedicated to performing high quality veterinary services to horses in the St Louis area. Our philosophy is to practice preventative medicine in a balanced approach by promoting good husbandry, including nutrition, parasite control, vaccination, and equine dentistry. We believe in preventing serious diseases before they occur. Here at EMA we provide our emergency services whenever they are needed, holidays included, as part of our goal in providing comprehensive equine medical care.



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About Us

Equine Medical Associates is an equine veterinary practice that serves the Bi-State, Greater St Louis Area. The practice was established by Dr Thomas G Loafmann in 1973 and specializes in general equine health and emergency veterinary care. The extensive ambulatory services Equine Medical Associates offers cover a 60 mile radius of St Louis in both Missouri and Illinois. These services are offered on a 24 hour emergency basis and we always have a live person available to answer the phone.



Our hospital is located in the beautiful Wildwood, Missouri and is available for office visits and hospitalization. Our facilities include hospitalization stalls, surgical facilities, an exam room with stocks, a pharmacy, and available outdoor pasture and turn-out. Feel free to take a virtual tour of our equine hospital! We also offer a Satellite Clinic to our Illinois clientele, located at Red Fox Paso's near Troy, Illinois. It is available for haul-in appointments and office visits. Check out the services we offer in Illinois, here!

Equine Medical Associates, Inc - 17525 Manchester Rd, Glencoe, Missouri - Founded 1973

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM
Saturday 8AM-12:00PM
Emergency Service 24/7

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