

## What Is EOTRH?

It is a syndrome in older horses that results in resorptive lesions of the incisors and canine teeth, and has been documented in the cheek teeth of some horses. There is currently no known cause for this condition. As the disease progresses, the roots of the incisors start to resorb (or basically dissolve). Some horses also develop hypercementosis or bulb-like swellings around the roots of these teeth. This may be the body's response to try to stabilize these teeth.

Eventually, the affected teeth become inflamed and can become loose or even fracture. This can be a very painful condition for these horses and can result in weight loss, difficulty in the bridle, and change in attitude. Many older horses are fairly stoic and don't always exhibit obvious outward signs of pain until the clinical disease is quite progressed.

Our goal is to diagnose these horses at an earlier stage to prevent pain, inflammation, weight loss, and secondary infection. Treatment of this condition typically involves extraction of the affected teeth. Horses do quite well without their incisors, utilizing the cheek teeth for grinding and chewing food. Current research is investigating underlying causes that hopefully will bring about new treatments.



*This is what horses look like after removal of all their incisors.*

## About Us:

At Midwest Veterinary Dental Services, we are passionate about providing the highest quality and most current dental care for our patients. Our doctors are continuously learning and researching the most current techniques in veterinary dentistry, including designing and creating new instruments and techniques. We have incorporated cutting edge minimally invasive extraction techniques including partial coronectomy and buccotomy.

We are dedicated to educating veterinarians in all aspects of dentistry through continuing education seminars and labs. Our team of certified veterinary technicians have over 15+ years of experience and have completed specialized dentistry training.



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# EOTRH

## Syndrome in Horses

**E** = Equine

**O** = Odontoclastic

**T** = Tooth

**R** = Resorption and

**H** = Hypercementosis



VETERINARY DENTAL SERVICES  
ANIMALS DESERVE EXCEPTIONAL DENTISTRY

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**Normal Horse**  
15 years old

**Moderate EOTRH**  
21 years old

**Severe EOTRH**  
24 years old



Normal radiographic appearance to lower incisors

Resorptive lesions in several incisors

Severe resorptive lesions affecting all lower incisors

### Moderate EOTRH:

The horse in the middle had significant radiographic changes, but minimal outward signs of the disease.

### Severe EOTRH:

The horse on the right showed significant changes both outwardly and radiographically. This horse was experiencing dramatic weight loss and poor attitude. He was successfully treated by extracting all 12 incisors. An immediate improvement in his attitude and appetite were noted. In fact, he was back to grazing the day after his extractions! Within one month he was gaining weight again.

### FAQ:

#### What is the treatment for EOTRH?

Extraction of affected teeth is the recommended treatment at this time. Horses with advanced disease may require extraction of all incisors.

#### Can my horse continue to eat normally if his incisors are extracted?

Yes. Following extractions, we generally recommend a softened diet for a few weeks, but these horses can easily continue to eat hay and even graze. Their lips take over the function of tearing off grass, and by watching them eat, you'd never know their incisors are missing.

#### What about riding?

Following extraction, we ask that you keep a bit out of their mouth for a few weeks. After that, you can resume normal riding.

#### What will his appearance be like?

His outward appearance won't change much. Some horses will let their tongues hang out of their mouths following extractions, but this can be quite variable.