

# REMOVAL OF FRACTURED INCISORS

How a collaborative process helped successfully remove a donkeys two fractured incisors.

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We continuously share our expertise to help improve donkey welfare. In this case study, we share how a collaborative effort between Equine Dental Technicians and vets to remove a donkeys two fractured incisors.



**Fractured teeth** are a common dental condition for donkeys, therefore taking good care and regularly checking a donkeys teeth is vital for their health and wellbeing.

## DIAGNOSIS

One of the Equine Dental Technicians (EDT) at The Donkey Sanctuary was asked to examine a donkey that had been observed with blood on his mouth. Our EDT saw that Partlan, a 3 year old gelding, had sustained fractures of two of his temporary middle and corner incisors (602 and 603). Partlan was immediately referred to the vets for x-rays and a detailed assessment.

## DENTAL SURGERY

Partlan was sedated and given pain relief, and a set radiographs (straight and oblique maxillary incisor views). Thankfully, the radiographs revealed no damage to the permanent teeth developing underneath the fracture.

While still under sedation, a regional nerve block (infraorbital nerve block) was given to numb the left hand side of his maxilla. The two incisors were removed and the sockets curetted to remove all loose alveolar bone

associated with the fracture. The socket was thoroughly flushed with water to remove any debris and the remaining gum sutured in place. Partlan was kept on pain relief for 4 days after surgery and his eating monitored to assess for pain.

## RECOVERY

He recovered well, and once the sutures were removed he had no further problems. Both permanent incisors (202 and 203) developed normally and Partlan has now gone out on our rehoming scheme.

The EDTs' and vets' close working relationship shows just how quickly problems can be assessed and treated at our hospital, giving Partlan a fairytale ending with his guardian family.

## MORE INFORMATION

For advice on clinical cases and laboratory results please call 01395 578222 and ask to be put through to the veterinary department.