

- **Radicular Hypsodont** – horses are hypsodonts, meaning their teeth have a long crown and short roots. The crown continues to erupt through their lifetime until the expiration of the tooth by the closing of the apices.
- Note the difference in crown length under the gingiva on a 2 year old vs a 9 year old horse.



2 year old



9 year old

- **Horses have 2 sets of teeth:** deciduous and adult. They have 24 deciduous teeth and 36-44 adult teeth. Not all adult horses have canine teeth or the 1<sup>st</sup> premolar.
  - The first premolars can also be referred to as the “wolf teeth”.
  - Retained deciduous teeth are referred to as “caps”.
  - Premolars and molars can also be referred to as cheek teeth.
- **Deciduous dental formula:** 2 (I 3/3, C 0/0, PM 3/3, M 0/0) = 24 teeth
- **Adult dental formula:** 2 (I 3/3, C 0-1/0-1, P 3-4/3-4, M 3/3) = 36-44 teeth
- Anisognathism is present in horses as their maxilla is wider than their mandible.
- During their younger years adult horses can be aged based on eruption of teeth as they have a reliable timeline.

I 1	I 2	I 3	C	PM1	PM2	PM3	PM4	M1	M2	M3
2.5 y	3.5 y	4.5 y	4-5 y	5-6 m	2.5 y	2.5-3 y	3.5-4 y	9-12 m	2 y	3.5-4 y

- **Infundibulum** – the groove on the occlusal surface of the tooth
  - Eventually wears away over time as the horse ages.
- **Caps** – retained remnants of deciduous teeth
- **Galvayne's groove** – dark line that appears and disappears on the buccal aspect of the I3 that can also be helpful in estimating age of a horse
- **Dental Float:** procedure that uses rasps to grind down sharp points and level out occlusal surfaces on equine teeth
  - Usually completed under sedation with the horse standing
  - Hand rasps or power-driven rasps can be used
  - Sharp points are found on the buccal aspect of maxillary cheek teeth and lingual aspect of mandibular teeth due to the anisognathism.
  - Also corrects hooks, ramps, and waves (abnormal growth patterns of the tooth)
  - Only millimeters are taken each time to avoid damaging the teeth
- **Signs an oral exam is warranted:**
  - Weight loss
  - Quidding (dropping feed)
  - Feed packing
  - Head shaking
- **Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis (EOTRH)**
  - Painful condition of the incisors
  - Affects the canines in some cases
  - Progressive condition of resorptive lesions causing destruction of tooth roots
  - Diagnosed with radiographs and noting of classic bulbous roots

