

Slide 1

**Preventing and Managing Weight Loss in Your Aging Herd**



Caroline N. Niederman, VMD  
PATH Intl. Region 1 Conference

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Slide 2

**Preventing and Managing Weight Loss in Your Aging Herd**

Dentistry ↔ Nutrition

Determine Baseline Chewing Capacity

Create Proactive Plan to transition away from long stem hay

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Slide 3

**Preventing and Managing Weight Loss in Your Aging Herd**

Step One

Determine baseline chewing capacity for each horse

Yearly

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Slide 4

**Preventing and Managing Weight Loss in Your Aging Herd**

**Step Two**

**Determine baseline Body Condition Score and Topline Evaluation Score**

**Twice Yearly**

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Slide 5

**Preventing and Managing Weight Loss in Your Aging Herd**

**Step Three**

**Introduce Nutritional Adjustments and Monitor Progress**

**Every two weeks**

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Slide 6

**Preventing and Managing Weight Loss in Your Aging Herd**

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Part II</b>
Dental Anatomy Foundation	Hands On : Steps Two & Three: Skulls & Horses
Step One	Case Studies

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Slide 14



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Slide 15



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Slide 16



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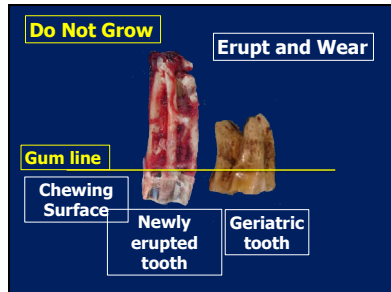
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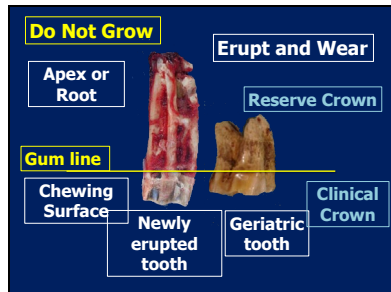
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**Heterodont Dentition:**  
**Incisors**

- Twelve (12) total:
- Six upper (maxillary)/ Six lower (mandibular)]
- Function: Prehension



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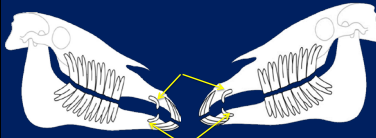
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**Heterodont Dentition:**  
**Canines**

- Four (4) total: [Two upper/ two lower]
- Function: Defense



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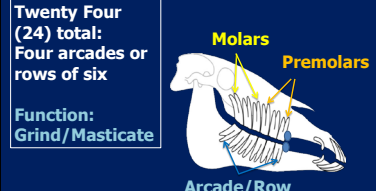
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**Heterodont Dentition:**  
**Cheek Teeth [Premolars/Molars]**

Twenty Four (24) total:  
Four arcades or rows of six

Function:  
Grind/Masticate



Molars  
Premolars  
Arcade/Row

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Slide 32



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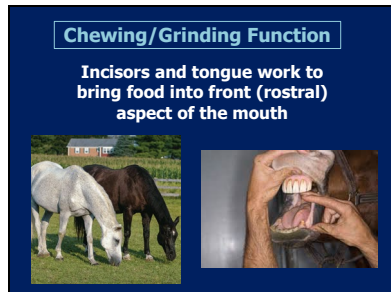
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**Chewing/Grinding Function**  
Food is then passed along the occlusal surface of the cheek teeth [six teeth acting as a unit] in an auger like fashion.



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**Chewing/Grinding Function**  
Cheeks keep food in between the teeth



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Slide 36

**Chewing/Grinding Function**  
Saliva produced in large quantities to moisten the food



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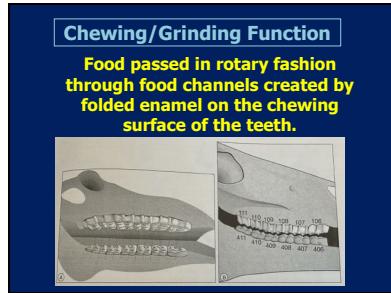
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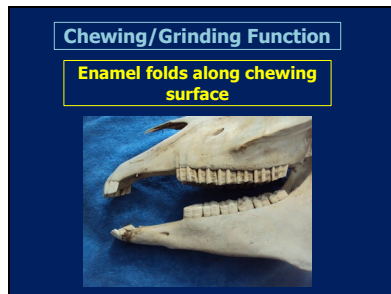
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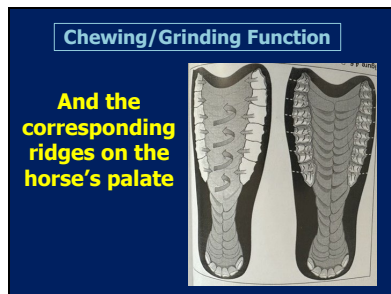
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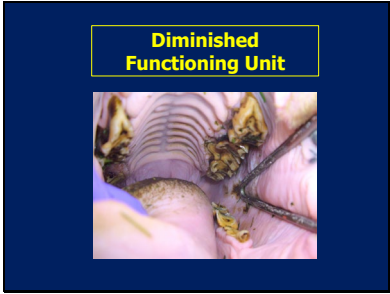
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Slide 44



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Slide 45



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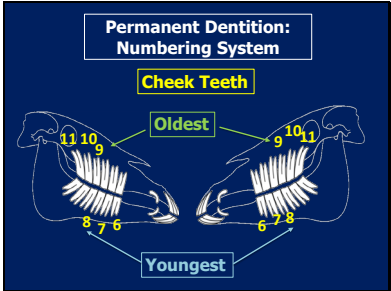








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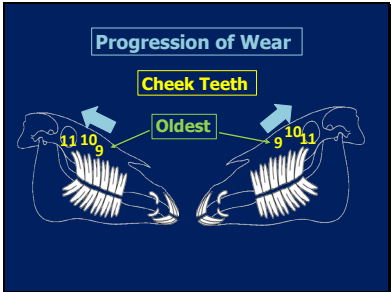


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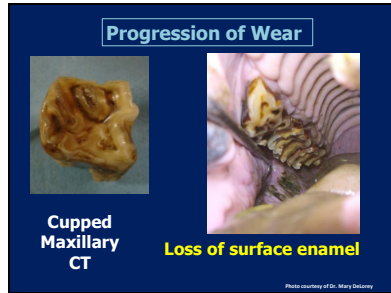


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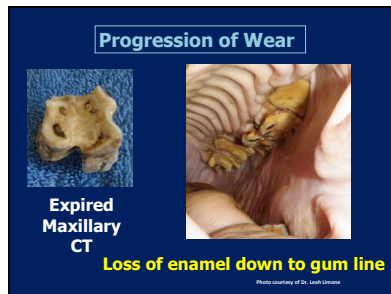
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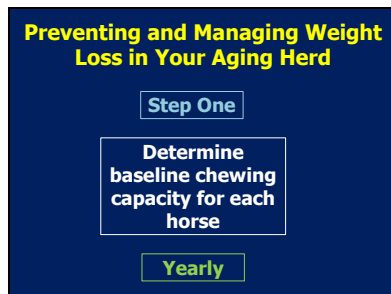
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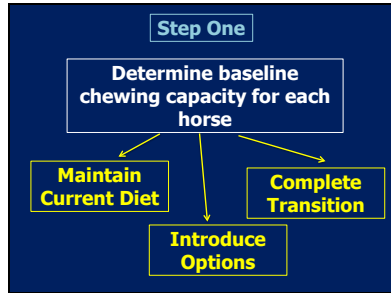
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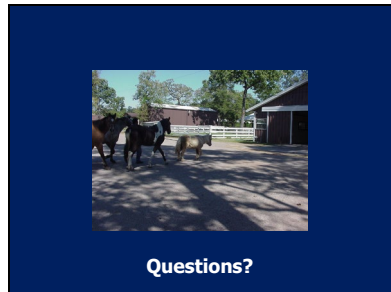
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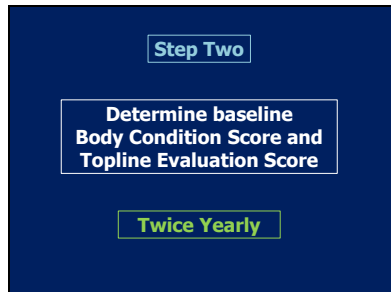
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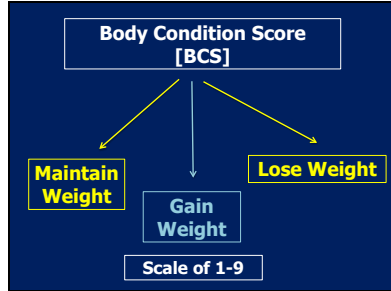
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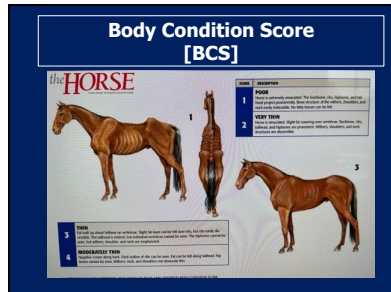
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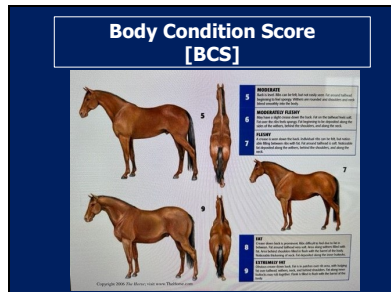
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**Nutritional Principles**

- ✓ Add Additional Meal
- ✓ Increase Caloric Density [calories/bite]
- ✓ Introduce variety | Options
- ✓ Watch time
- ✓ Weigh feeds

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**Nutritional Principles**

- ✓ Add Additional Meal

- Great return on investment
- Prevents long periods when gut is empty (if horse is no longer able to consume hay or grass)

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**Nutritional Principles**

- ✓ Increase Caloric Density

- More calories per bite
- Less time eating
- Horses tolerate high fat diets
- Not all senior feeds are the same

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**Nutritional Principles**

✓ **Increase Caloric Density**

- Not all senior feeds are the same

**Maintenance: 5-6% Fat**  
**Weight Gain: 10-12% Fat**

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**Nutritional Principles**

✓ Not all senior feeds are the same

**Purina Senior (red bag): 5.5% Fat**

**Purina Senior active (blue bag): 10% Fat**

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**Nutritional Principles**

✓ **Fiber Content: Complete/Senior Feed vs. Grain**

**Senior/Complete Feeds:**  
Fiber: 16-18%  
[Greater than 12%]

**Grain: Fiber Less than 10%**

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**Nutritional Principles**

✓ **Introduce Variety | Options**

- Good for their soul.
- Horses naturally select what they can chew

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**Nutritional Principles**

✓ **Watch Time**

- Horses will commonly quit chewing after 30-45 minutes

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**Nutritional Principles**

✓ **Weigh Feeds**

- Underfeeding is very common.
- Nutrition involves numbers!

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