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Oral Examination Results in Rescued Ferrets: Clinical Findings

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Summary:
Ferrets have increased in popularity as pets, and a growing number are seen in companion animal practice. Domestic ferrets are commonly used as animal models for research of human oral conditions. The present study evaluated the prevalence of oral pathology in rescued ferrets which – to the authors' knowledge – has not yet been described in the scientific literature. Conscious oral examination was performed on 63 ferrets, of which 49 underwent general anesthesia for further examination. The most common clinical findings included malocclusion of mandibular second incisor teeth (95.2 %); extrusion of canine teeth (93.7 %); and abrasion and attrition of teeth (76.2 %). Tooth fractures were exclusively associated with canine teeth and found in 31.7 % of ferrets. Pulp exposure was confirmed in 60.0% of fractured teeth. The normal gingival sulcus depth measured < 0.5-mm in 87.8 % of anesthetized ferrets. Clinical evidence of periodontal disease was present in 65.3 % of anesthetized ferrets (gingivitis or probing depths > 0.5-mm), however, advanced periodontal disease (i.e. periodontal pockets > 2-mm or stage 3 furcation exposure) was not found upon clinical examination. There was no evidence of tooth resorption, dental caries, stomatitis, or oral tumors in the examined group of ferrets. ***J Vet Dent 28(1); 8 - 15, 2011***

Dental eruption chronology in degus *(Octodon degus)*

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Summary:
The purpose of this study was to gain information concerning chronology of postnatal dental eruption in degus (Octodon degu). Specific findings pertain to the estimation of postnatal age at tooth emergence through the gingiva and to the age when a particular tooth is in functional occlusion. Fifty newborn degu pups were included in this study. The oral cavity endoscopy was carried out under isoflurane anesthesia in all animals 3 to 4 and 24-hours after birth, then at 1-day intervals until the age of 40-days, and subsequently at 2-day intervals until 75-days of age. Tooth emergence was considered to have occurred when any portion of the crown had penetrated the gingiva. The stage when the teeth come into occlusion was defined as the functional occlusion. The degus were born with completely erupted permanent incisors that were already in functional occlusion. All the premolar teeth and all the first molar teeth erupted on days 2 - 3 and 4 - 5 of life, respectively. The first signs of functional occlusion of all the first 2 cheek teeth were observed on days 9 - 11. Maxillary and mandibular second molar teeth emerged between days 17 - 19 and 18 - 20, respectively. First signs of functional occlusion were observed on days 30 - 31 and 31 - 33 for maxillary and mandibular second molar teeth,

respectively. Maxillary third molar teeth emerged on days 38 - 44 and erupted into occlusion on days 48 - 58. Mandibular third molar teeth emerged on days 39 - 46 and erupted into occlusion on days 58 - 72. ***J Vet Dent 28(1); 16 - 20, 2011***

Nasopharyngeal Tooth Foreign Body in a Dog

Min-Hee Kang, Chae-Young Lim; Hee-Myung Park

Summary:
An 8-year-old Shih-tzu dog was presented with a 2-week history of cough and nasal discharge. Upon presentation, the dog had constant open-mouth breathing with stertor and blood-tinged mucopurulent nasal discharge. Oral examination revealed a missing right mandibular second premolar tooth and severe periodontal disease. Computed tomography showed a radiodense, retropharyngeal foreign body. The foreign body was removed using caudal rhinoscopy. The foreign body was the right mandibular second premolar covered by thick calculus. ***J Vet Dent 28(1); 26 - 29, 2011***

Treatment of a Periradicular Lesion in an Alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*)

Russell Parker, BVSc, MRCVS; Claire Hawkes, BVSc, MRCVS; Alistair Cox, BVMS, MRCVS; Safia Z. Barakzai, BVSc, MSc, MRCVS

Summary:
This case report describes the diagnosis and surgical treatment of a cyst-like periradicular lesion in an alpaca. ***J Vet Dent 28(1); 22 - 24, 2011***

Veterinary Dentistry at Work
Treatment of Oral Abscesses in Rodents and Lagomorphs

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