



Fact Sheet - Equine Dental and Sinus Procedures

Your horse has been admitted to the RVH to undergo dentistry or sinus examination and intervention. This information sheet will provide information relating to dental and sinus procedures, including the risks involved in these procedures and possible complications.

This fact sheet is not intended to deter you from having your horse treated for their condition but is to provide you with information when you provide your informed consent prior to your horse receiving treatment.

Please review this document carefully and sign the acknowledgement and informed consent at the bottom of the document.

Please contact our staff if you have any questions in relation to this document.

No intervention is without risk:

Despite observance and compliance with best practice standards, even minor interventions can lead to complications or incidents. Each individual horse may react differently to treatments or medications, leading to different outcomes for the same intervention and varying recovery times.

Although complications remain rare and most are manageable, dental procedures for horses have a higher percentage of complications compared to other routine interventions. Our team will endeavour to keep you closely informed and updated while your horse is under their care and until they are ready to be discharged from the RVH.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of the key risks associated with standard dental procedures based on practice experience and academic literature.

Diagnostics:

Examination of the oral cavity: injury may be caused when using the mouth gag.

Endoscopic examination of the nose and the paranasal sinuses may result in:

- bleeding after trauma to blood vessels; and
- Infection when employing water or compressed air via the endoscope.

X-ray examination may result in:

- Radiation hazard related issues; and
- Injury due to adverse reaction by fear.

CT scan of the head has risks associated with general anaesthesia treatment and recovery (discussed below).

Anaesthesia:

Sedation by injection or infusion may result in:

- cardiovascular collapse
- injury due to falling or defensive movements,
- damaging of blood vessels (e.g. phlebitis) due to catheter placement
- possibility of developing a colic.

Local anaesthesia (conductive and nerve anaesthesia) may result in:

- injury to nerves or blood vessels (possible long-term damages, such as nerve paralysis),
- bleeding below and behind the eye (periocular haemorrhage)
- damages to the cornea due to drying of the cornea surface
- loss of sight
- infection of the injection area possibly ascending to the brain
- self-mutilation (chewing on the anaesthetised tongue)

General anaesthesia may result in:

Multiple possible although rare complications still with up to 1% resulting in death.

A separate detailed document addressing possible complications of general anaesthesia is available.



Treatment and surgery:

Dental filling in cases of caries as well as milling of interdental spaces in case of periodontitis may result in:

- Opening of root canals leading to infection and need for tooth extraction

Dental extraction may result in:

- Loosening and extraction of the tooth with specific instruments:
 - fracture or injuring adjacent teeth and the jawbone,
 - injury to soft tissue.

- Perforation of the paranasal sinuses leading to infection.

- Removal of the tooth by means of maxillary or mandibular milling and removal of the fragments with specific instruments:

 - Injury to the dental alveolus, other teeth, a blood vessel or a nerve.

- Removal of the tooth by means of a gum incision:

 - Injury to blood vessels, the salivary duct or a cranial nerve leading to the development of a transient or permanent facial nerve paralysis.

- Removal of the tooth by opening up the jawbone:

 - injury to nerves, blood vessels, adjacent teeth or the nasolacrimal duct.

- Retention of bone fragments despite extensive inspection of the dental alveolus after the extraction

- Mandibular bone fracture

Opening the paranasal sinuses by means of trephination or bone flap may result in:

- Infection and wound healing disorders

- Bone infection leading to the development of bone sequestrum or suture exostosis

- Uncontrolled bleeding

- Nerve damages

- Ascending infection leading to an inflammation of the brain or of the meninges

Treatment of jaw fractures:

- Development bone sequestrum, needing a revision surgery at later stage

- Tooth located in the area fracture necessitating later extraction

Other possible complications:

Incompatibilities (e.g. allergic shock) or unwanted side effects (e.g. gastric ulcers) to drugs used to minimise infection risk and manage pain and inflammation.

If the intervention is carried out on the horse standing, self-inflicted injury with the crush or due to fall or loss of consciousness associated with sedation

Colitis (acute inflammation of the large intestine leading to diarrhoea) as a possible complication to any painful or stressful procedure in a horse. It can also develop as a complication to the use of antimicrobials and anti-inflammatory and pain killing drugs, long fasting and diet changes that are unavoidable around these procedures. Colitis is always a critical condition that can in some cases lead to death.

In some cases, dental extractions and maxillary or mandibular treatments are only possible with several sessions. Sometimes, a rest period must be given between the sessions. In many cases, it is easier to remove remaining tooth or bone fragments after a withholding period.

Miscellaneous

Due to clinic/hospital schedule, an additional session may not be immediately available resulting in a delay

In case of emergency, priority will be given to critical patients, and a procedure may have to be delayed. Despite a successful tooth extraction, an inflammation of the dental alveolus or of the paranasal sinuses might occur, which leads to further treatments being necessary.

Diseases or cysts of the paranasal sinuses may re-occur.

After an extraction, the opposing tooth must be trimmed regularly to avoid its overgrowth into the tooth gap.

Roseworthy Veterinary Hospital



Our invoices are based on the medical fee schedule for veterinarians. Due to complications or unforeseen events, the treatment costs might be higher than expected or first quoted for. It is not possible to estimate the costs for follow-up treatments.

In some cases, items may exceed the insurance cover available for the surgical fees.

By signing this form, you confirm that you have been informed about the costs (estimate is a separate document), extent, and risks of the treatment. Please sign below to provide your informed consent to proceed with the planned procedure.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| First Name: | Name of Horse: |
| Last Name: | Owner or Authorised Representative: |
| Place of signing: | Signature of Owner: |
| Date: | |

If signing as an authorized representative of the owner, you warrant that you are acting within the authority provided to you by the owner or keeper of the animal and have or will provide documentary evidence of such authority.