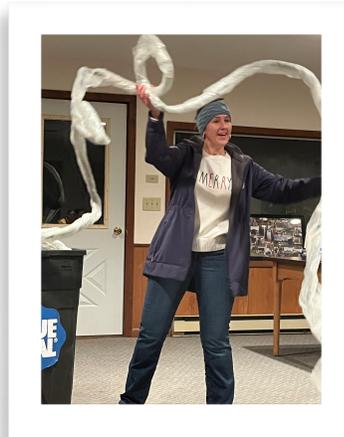


Adult Camp with Special Guest

This year's adult camp was held over the weekend of October 13th and 14th. Although the discussion topics covered a wide range of material the focus was on horse digestive health. Mackenzie Chauncey, our local Blue Seal representative and employee of the Kent Corporation, came and gave an informative and thorough talk on how the digestive system in horses works from the lips through the production of manure.



Mackenzie's presentation

Camps, adult or otherwise, are an amazing opportunity to be around horses and the people who love them. This is where we truly begin to understand the animals and learn how to communicate with them. Our skills are developed by having time to engage in activities with the horses that are outside our normal interactions and we can also learn by watching other people with different skill sets. We (re)learn to appreciate how our time, training, and work ethic reaps rewards from this amazing partnership while building lifelong friendships with other people who share our interest. Camp is about spending time with horses and learning about topics like barn management, show grooming, competitions, obstacle training, tack cleaning, barn building, and general chores but can be directed towards many other areas if an interest is expressed.

It is also a great time to dive deeper into the subjects that affect our relationship like learning about the digestive system, taking time to see how a horse chews their food, learning how equipment fit affects communication, and all the other things that come up while spending time with horses.

Calendar

Camps will open in January this year. Check your inbox for the official invite or the [website](#) for more information.

40th Annual Wassail Weekend
December
13/14/15, 2024
Wassail parade at 2:00 on the 14th through Woodstock village. Full schedule of activities at the [link](#).

Wishing you and yours all the best now and in the New Year.



Josie in the hay

HORSE TEETH

Horses have two sets of teeth, baby and adult, that erupt (or grow) throughout their lifetime.

INCISORS

The front six teeth are called incisors and function to cut off forage. Adult incisors erupt between age 2 ½ and 4 ½.

CHEEK TEETH

Cheek teeth, premolars and molars, are wide, flat, and grooved designed to grind food before swallowing.

DENTAL WORK

Dental exams are needed 1-2 times per year to fix any sharp points or abnormalities that appear.

Barn Notes

Camps

2025 camp dates are on the website. We are going to open camps to everyone in January this year. If you would like to receive an invite when they open, send us an email at DelaneyStables@gmail.com.

Recently we have been approached to do a custom camp for a group of cousins during their out-of-state time on school vacation. We are delighted to arrange special times like this for all ages. Be in touch with Jill if you would like to explore the different options.



Elizabeth & Betty

Peanut

Peanut graduated into the lesson program this fall. We didn't get far into his teaching career when he 'popped a split' requiring time off to rest the injury. This type of lameness issue usually resolves itself with 8 to 12 weeks of rest. He is a bit bored but healing nicely.

Green Gables Freeze

Freeze was started under the saddle this fall and took to it exceptionally well. Since he is still 2 years old, he will have the rest of the winter off and be starting again in the spring when he will be a solid 3 years and 4 months old!

Little's Day

The Little's Days were a huge success again last year so we will be putting three dates on the calendar this summer/fall. Stay tuned.

Quarterly Challenge - Carrying a Flag

Definition - To safely pick up, carry, and put down a flag.

Purpose - General training and parades

Set-up - Holder, Flag

Ideal - Halt next to the flag. Pick it up and position it while standing still. Walk, trot, or canter around with the flag. Halt and put the flag back in its holder.

Training Tips - This can be very scary to horses so starting slow is a must. Set up the obstacle without the horse first. Then lead, in-hand, the horse to the flag. Let them sniff it and play with it. If

they are worried, stop here and revisit it daily until they are confident with this step. Each step must be approached this way or you will teach your horse to fear it.

When they are solid with walking in-hand to the flag, add in picking the flag up. When they are solid with you picking up the flag, slowly start to wave it around. Continue in-hand by walking around with the flag and horse and putting it down. When no fear is present, move on to these same slow steps on the horse's back.



The Peanut Gallery

"Why do horses need to see the dentist?"

Adult horses have between 36 and 40 teeth that erupt throughout their lifetime. These adult teeth start growing in around age 2 ½ and continue to erupt into the adult mouth until about age 6.

Understanding a bit about how the horse chews food will help us understand why the dental work is needed.

The incisors are the front teeth that cut the feed the lips pick up. Once cut, the tongue helps move the feed back and hold the feed out to the sides so that the cheek teeth can grind it down. The grinding motion a horse employs is a sideways motion, not an up and down motion, that is determined by the slant of the matching surfaces of the upper and lower cheek teeth. Upper teeth grind against lower teeth creating wear that the erupting tooth compensates for over time. However if this wear is not even, the horse can develop sharp points on their teeth that can interfere with the sideways chewing function of the mouth. When this happens, the feed is inadequately broken down before it is swallowed, leading to all sorts of problems from ulcers to weight loss. These points can also cause wounds to the inside of the mouth and create issues when the horse is bridled for work.

All of these reasons make our vet or horse dentist an important part of the team that helps your horse live its best life. For young and old horses it is generally recommended that they are examined twice a year.

Young horses start losing their baby teeth sometime in their second year when the adult teeth start to erupt. If this transition time is not perfect for both top and bottom teeth, the slope of the teeth may be affected causing sharp points or wearing the slopes incorrectly. Another factor for the young horse is that this is a time that they are often started with a bridle. A painful mouth is not something to add to the equation and can

create lifelong issues with head tossing or unwillingness to take a bit while bridling.

Many horses grow wolf teeth and canine teeth. Wolf teeth can erupt as early as five months of age. They are often removed because they can interfere with the bit and cause pain. These are short, vestigial teeth that are located in the space between the incisors and molars. They can be found in the upper jaw and/or lower jaw, on one side or both. Canine teeth are pointed teeth that are located in front of the wolf teeth, beside the incisors. They are more common in male horses, are often larger than wolf teeth, and usually erupt between the ages of 4½ and 5½.

Old horses lose teeth when all the tooth has erupted from the jaw. The loss of one tooth leaves no surface for the opposite to wear against, causing an overgrowth that interferes with the sliding motion of the jaw. Tooth loss also creates gaps for food stuff to sit causing problems like gum disease and bone damage.

Adult horses often are able to have their dental work done once per year. Consultation with your dental professional will help you determine what the best approach is for your horses' particular needs.

Resources

The DS Club

<https://delaneystables.com/about-ds-club/Membership Form>

<https://delaneystables.com/trec/>

TREC

Local

<https://delaneystables.com/trec/>

National

<https://trec-usa.org/>

International

<https://fite-net.org/>

Horse and Rider books

<https://www.horseandriderbooks.com/>