NVAP Reference Guide: Appendix G: Equine Teeth and Aging

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The age of horses, donkeys, and mules can be estimated by examining the eruption and wear patterns of the teeth. Figures 7 through 9 provide a usable reference to help the accredited veterinarian approximate a given horse’s age. These figures are reprinted with the permission of the American Association of Equine Practitioners from the “Official Guide for Determining the Age of the Horse.”

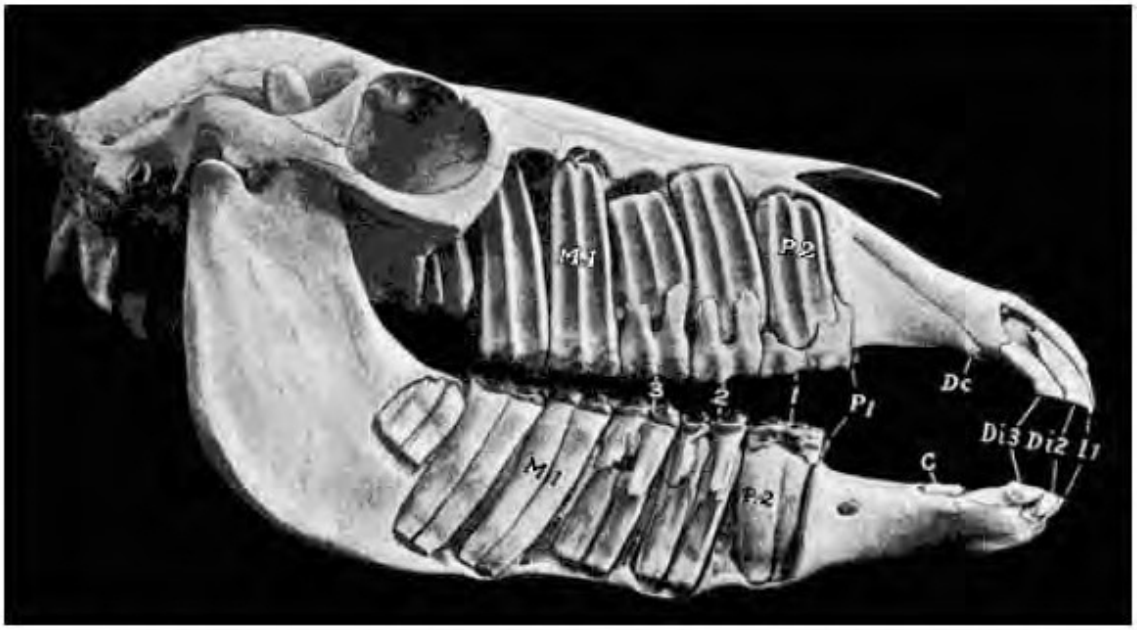


Figure 7—*Skull of a colt, 2½ years old, sculptured to show embedded parts of teeth. Both permanent and deciduous cheek teeth are shown. I 1 = first permanent incisor. Di 2 and D 33 are second and third deciduous incisors. Dc = deciduous canine. C = permanent canine. P 1 = first premolar ("wolf-tooth"). 1, 2, and 3 are deciduous premolars. P 2 = first permanent premolar. M 1 = first molar.*

In determining the age of a horse by its teeth, the examination is usually limited to the incisors. Eruption of the premolars and molars (cheek teeth) is a fairly accurate indication of age but is used infrequently. After the permanent teeth are in wear, determination of age becomes more difficult and quite speculative. No single feature or sign along should be considered as reliable; all signs must be evaluated carefully. The eruption table given here is from Sisson and Grossman (19xx).

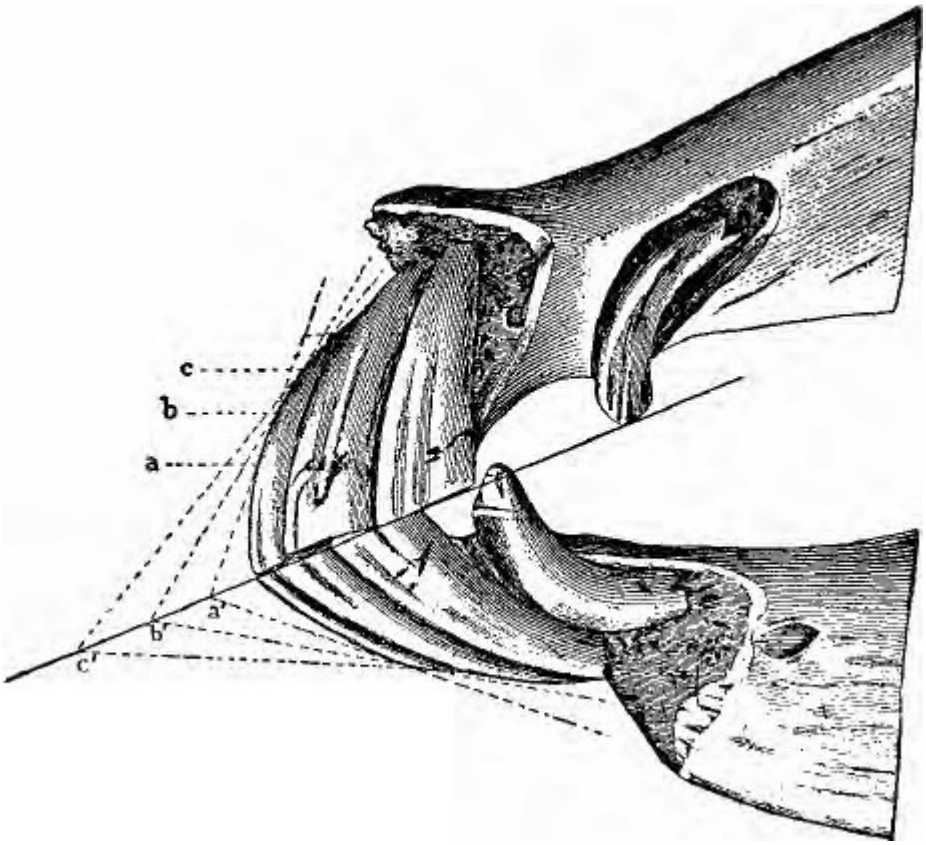
Eruption of the Teeth

The subjoined table indicates the average period of the eruption of the teeth.

Teeth	Eruption
A. Deciduous:	
First incisor (Di 1)	Birth or first week
Second incisor (Di 2)	4-6 weeks
Third incisor (Di 3)	6-9 months
Canine (Dc)	

Teeth	Eruption
First Premolar (Dp 2)	Birth or first 2 weeks
Second premolar (Dp 3)	Birth or first 2 weeks
Third premolar (Dp 4)	Birth or first 2 weeks
B. Permanent:	
First Incisor (I 1)	2 1/2 years
Second incisor (I 2)	3 1/2 years
Third incisor (I 3)	4 1/2 years
Canine (C)	4-5 years
First premolar or wolf-tooth (P 1)	5-6 months
Second premolar (P 2)	2 1/2 years
Third premolar (P 3)	3 years
Fourth premolar (P 4)	4 years
First molar (M 1)	9-12 months
Second molar (M 2)	2 years
Third molar (M 3)	3 1/2 -4 years

(The period given for P 3 and 4 refer to the upper teeth; the lower ones may erupt about 6 months earlier.)



The Incisive Arcades

When the incisors are viewed **in profile,** the angle between the upper and lower i11cisors becomes more acute with age.



Schematic Drawing of Incisors, Irregular Wear

Illustration depicts teeth of excessive length, whjch may have resulted from too-acute angulation at a n early age, improper wear, or maintenance of the horse of a soft diet. Each line on the corner tooth represents **approximately** 1year's growth. If **table** (occlusal) **surfaces** of incisors indicate age of 10 years and teeth were as illustrated, showing 10 lines, the age of the horse may be estimated as 20. (Number of lines added to indicated age of table surfaces equals estimated age.)

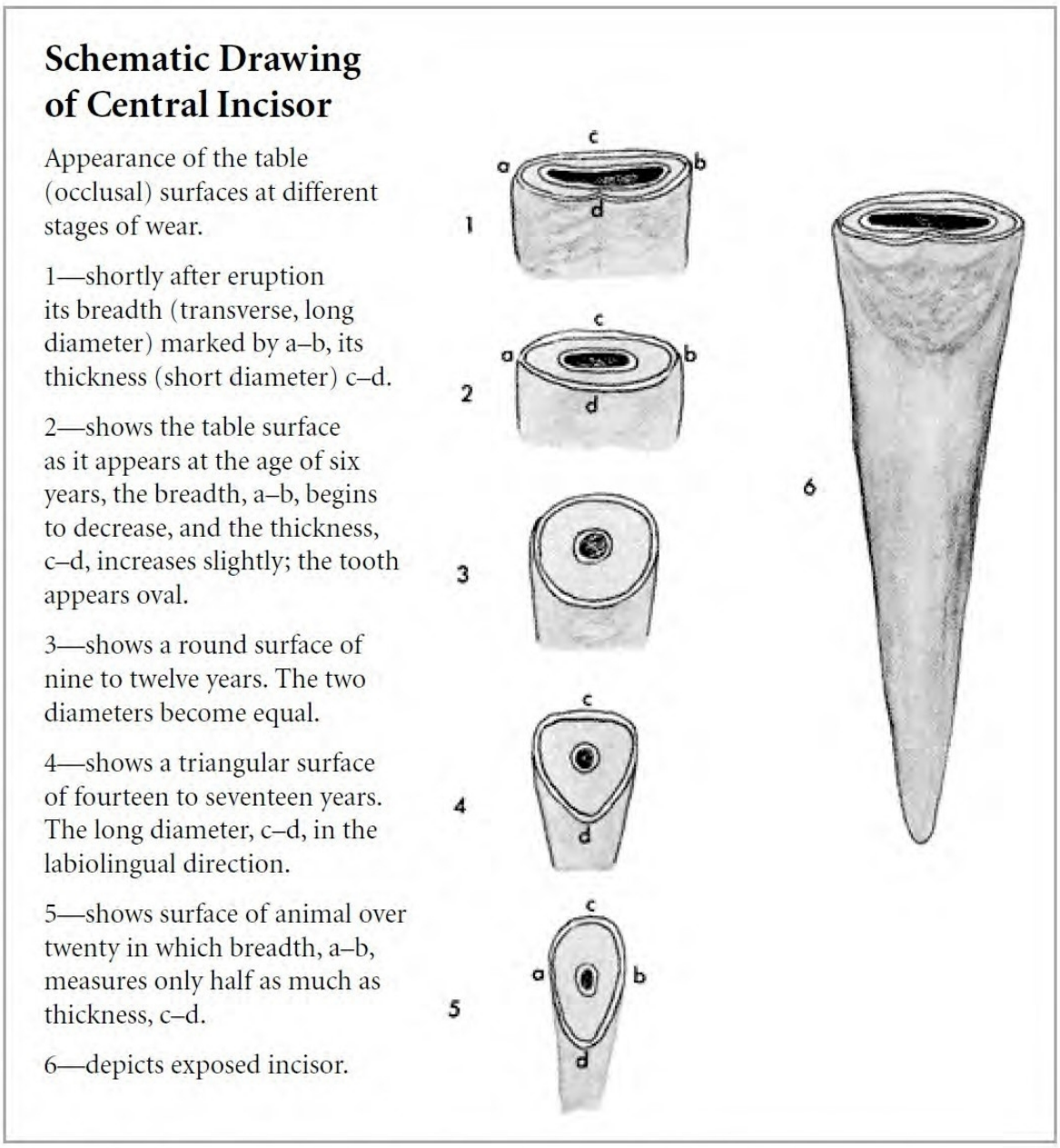


Figure 8—*A schematic drawing of the central incisor of the horse at various different ages. (Adapted from the "Official Guide for Determining the Age of the Horse," published by the American Association of Equine Practitioners.)*

Figure 9 - *Equine incisors at various ages on the following pages* (2.11 MB). *(Scanned from the Official Guide for Determining the Age of the Horse, Published by the American Association of Equine Practitioners.)*

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