A chapter of interest to all veterinary surgeons practising equine dentistry is that written by Dr Michael Lowder on oral extraction. The detailed description of the techniques backed up by beautifully clear illustrations makes it easy for the reader to understand the instruments, procedures and techniques. It is essential reading for all surgeons considering oral extractions even those experienced in the technique.

The chapters on periodontal disease, restorative dentistry and endodontics cover their subjects by emphasising the similarities between these diseases in horses, other domestic animals and in man. The pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment options described clearly reflect the opinions of the author regarding this area. This will be a new approach to many readers and undoubtedly further research is warranted to evaluate this in greater detail. It is slightly disappointing, though, that significant aspects of pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment, which have been the subject of recent research, have been overlooked. This is most apparent within the chapter on equine periodontal disease. In concentrating on the comparative science, a significant number of published peer-reviewed articles on the subject of equine periodontal disease have been overlooked. Over the past few years, published research from several authors has been focusing on the relationship with food accumulation at the interproximal space due to conformational diastemata and periodontal disease. It is therefore, a noticeable omission that this receives only a very small paragraph towards the end of the chapter, with no associated discussion or detail for the reader on this problem and the techniques to address it.

Overall, this book will be a useful resource for veterinary surgeons practising equine dentistry and presents an alternative approach to many challenges faced within this field. The approach adopted is thought provoking and is certainly a worthy purchase for any practice library, particularly for the chapter on oral extractions.

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While considerable advances in the diagnosis and treatment of equine dental disorders have been made over the past decade, the underlying mechanisms of tooth eruption have been a neglected area of study. Chronology and sequence of emergence of permanent premolar teeth in the horse: Study of deciduous premolar 'cap' removal in Thoroughbred racehorses. Article. Mar 2009. Equine vet j. P H L Ramzan. Lorraine Palmer.