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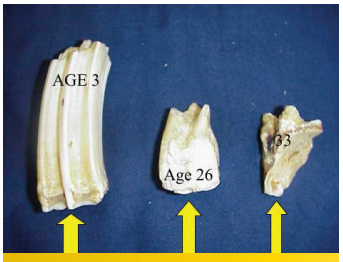
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Older horses like Rose offer an opportunity for students, residents and researchers to learn more about an important equine demographic.

Dear [informed salutation],

Rose, a 27-year-old Thoroughbred mare, has been with the Center for Equine Health (CEH) for nearly 20 years. A valued member of our teaching herd, she offers our veterinary students and residents the opportunity to study and work with older horses. A 2015 survey by the National Animal Health Monitoring System reported that 11.4% of horses in the United States are older than 20 years of age, meaning that veterinarians are increasingly challenged with the specialized care of an aging equine population.



The dramatic effect of aging on horse teeth.

When Rose began to have problems eating, losing weight as a result, we were determined to address the cause. It turned out Rose had developed a painful dental condition called equine odontoclastic tooth resorption and hypercementosis, or EOTRH, a commonly recognized but poorly characterized disease in middle-aged and older horses.

The underlying cause of EOTRH remains elusive, and at present, the only therapeutic option is extraction of affected teeth. Rose underwent successful surgery to have her upper incisors removed, and she is now enjoying good health. However, Rose will require special pelleted feed for the rest of her life, which incurs extra costs for the center.

The Center for Equine Health has supported research, led by Drs. Verena Affolter and Nicola Pusterla, to learn more about how EOTRH develops. A greater understanding of the underlying mechanisms of EOTRH could enable advances in dental care for older horses and may aid the development of future treatments.

Teaching herd horses like Rose provide valuable learning opportunities to students, residents and researchers. **Your gift to CEH makes a difference in providing long-serving horses like Rose the excellent care they deserve.** Your support facilitates our mission to advance the health, welfare, performance and veterinary care of horses through teaching and research. Our horses, and all of us at the Center for Equine Health, appreciate your generosity!

Sincerely,

Carrie Finno, DVM, DACVM, PhD
Director, Center for Equine Health

Thank you for helping us provide outstanding care for the Center for Equine Health horses by giving to the Teaching Herd Fund today at **give.ucdavis.edu/go/TeachingHerdFund.** If you are considering a legacy gift to help animals in need, please call (530) 752-7024.

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