



## **Dental Procedures in Rabbits**

**Overgrown teeth or dental malocclusion** is one of the most common problems seen by vets in pet rabbits.

**DID YOU KNOW: Rabbit's teeth continuously grow throughout life!** This means that if their teeth are growing at abnormal angles problems can recur multiple times.

Rabbits keep their teeth in shape and at the correct level by grinding on grass and hay.

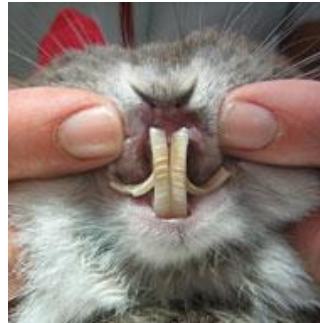
If the teeth are not aligned correctly or if there is little opportunity to grind, the teeth become deformed. The teeth form sharp spurs which then start cutting into the mouth and tongue causing ulcers and infection. This then leads to difficulty eating and severe digestive problems that may be fatal.

**Indications of this problem** are poor appetite, weight loss, salivation/dribbling, abscesses around the jaw/face, eye infections and matted droppings around the hindquarters.

### **NORMAL RABBIT INCISSORS**



### **OVERGROWN RABBIT INCISSORS**



### **What does dental treatment in rabbits involve?**

Your vet will have recommended dental treatment if, on examination, your rabbit has overgrown incisors (front teeth) or has sharp spurs or abnormal growth of the back (cheek) teeth, that are causing your rabbit discomfort, or stopping them from eating due to pain.

Dental treatment for your rabbit requires a general anaesthetic in order to fully assess their mouth. As rabbits have sensitive guts we always give our rabbit patient's medications which support healthy gut movement before, during and after any anaesthetic. We always recommend performing dental x-rays in order to assess what is going on below the gum line, to check for any dental abscesses and to assess the tooth roots. After performing the x-rays we then burr down any sharp edges or shorten overgrown incisors, depending on what is required.

