

Dental Problems with Rabbits – Is There Anything We Can Do?



Mr Molly enjoying his free time in the garden. He has a girlfriend Cherry who loves it too.

We're lucky, no predators, and 2 trusty steeds, our dogs Alfie & Bertie.

I appreciate not everyone is in the same position.

Jan 2023

Mr Molly 11 years old, and one of my own 5 lovely bunnies, dogged with **overgrown back molars** all his life.

The cost over the years I only dread to calculate! I was taking him to the Vets every 5-6 weeks.

In the Beginning

The Vet questioned whether I was, basically, happy to keep him alive. A Horror thought of not, but I understand the cost implications. Looking after any part of the family can be a costly exercise.

When You Realise There's a Problem

A wet chin, losing weight, wanting to eat but finding it difficult. Some rabbits will have runny eyes, may even start to hide because of the pain.

Hiding is typical when there's any problem, needing to be addressed by Savvy Vet.

How Fast Do the Teeth Grow – Fast!

Up to 12cm over the year, or 1cm a month, and it's continuous throughout their lifetime.

Did You Know

Rabbits chew side to side when they eat forage, fresh greens etc. BUT their jaw moves up and down when they eat pellets. Side to side helps wear teeth down.

When you think of it, in the wild they wouldn't be eating pellets. But in the wild their breeding habits wouldn't be interfered with – we humans! Inbreeding has caused many problems over the years. Sadly, like a lot of our beloved pets.

A Turn of Events!

Just over 2 1/2 years ago, when I let Mr Molly run free (having lost his previous girlfriend), there was a change on the dental front!

Change on the Dental Front

I've always picked forage for the past 20 years +
For my own rabbits, and for Hop Inn Guests – super
healthy, and great health benefits.

But, Mr Molly was foraging for the weeds around the
garden, and picking the small tough weeds out like a
dog with a bone.

Mr Molly has always had access to grass, when he's
been in a run, but was happy to ignore eating it from
the lawn. They're all different!

Six months later – no dental! Tough weed
foraging for himself? Do we need to dig up areas of
lawn turf as an option for rabbits with dental
problems? It wouldn't work for all!

Mr Molly Had to Stay Inside the Barn for a Week!

Another dental!

We looked after a friend's dog for a week over
Christmas – not rabbit friendly, so Mr Molly and Team
had to stay inside our corner barn. A week later Mr
Molly needed a dental – coincidence, I'm still
observing, but my gut is, lack of his own foraging, and
he won't munch on hay!



*Mr Molly's girlfriend Cherry – tucking into picked forage,
and why not.*



*One of my indoor hutches, out of the rain and cold – I feel
lucky we have the space.*

Not All Rabbits Teeth Problems are the Same

Front teeth overgrow (can be taken out). Teeth
growing up into the jaw. All a complex area for a
savvy Vet.

'These are just my thoughts and observations'.

Lisa