

Identifying good dental health

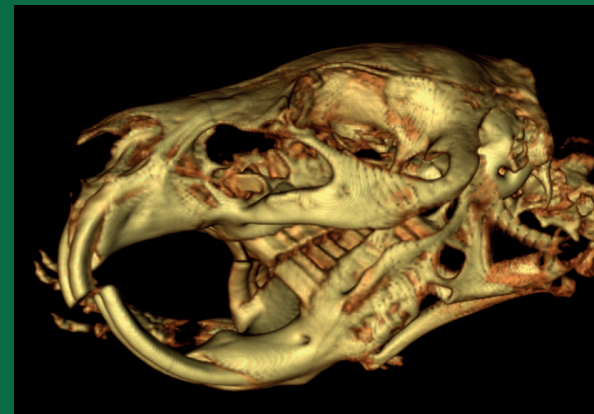


Normal latero-lateral skull radiograph showing molars engaged; incisors with a gap, but at correct angles. There is no evidence of molar spurs or of tooth elongation or root overgrowth.



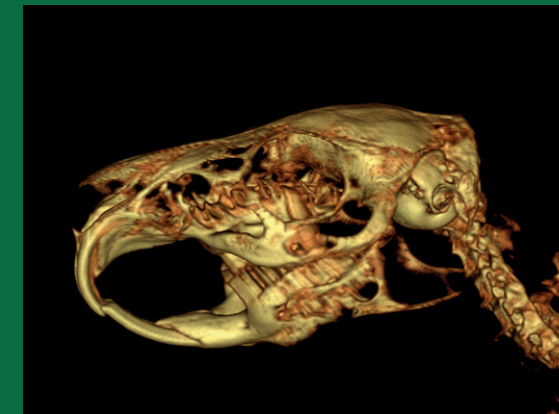
Dorso-ventral view of the same normal guinea pig.

Identifying dental disease



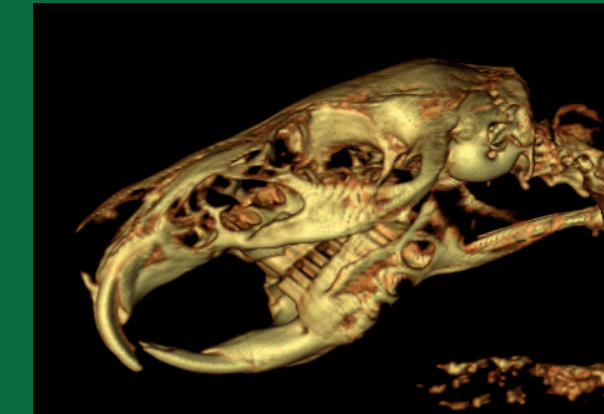
Moderate

3D CT reconstruction shows root elongation and some penetration of the mandibular cortex



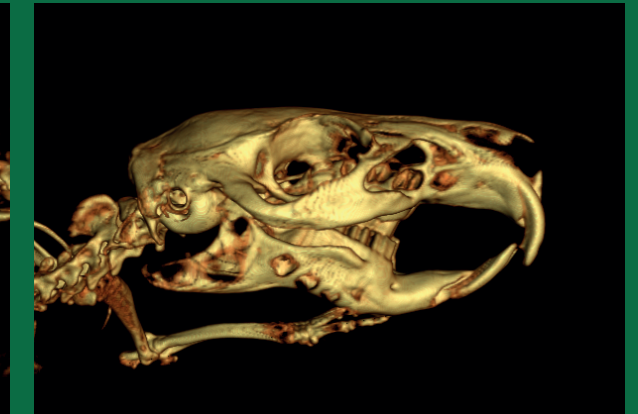
Severe

The incisors are now elongated and engaging at the same time as the molars; incisors are losing their normal chisel-shape and meeting "end on". Molar roots are elongated and penetrating bone cortices



More severe

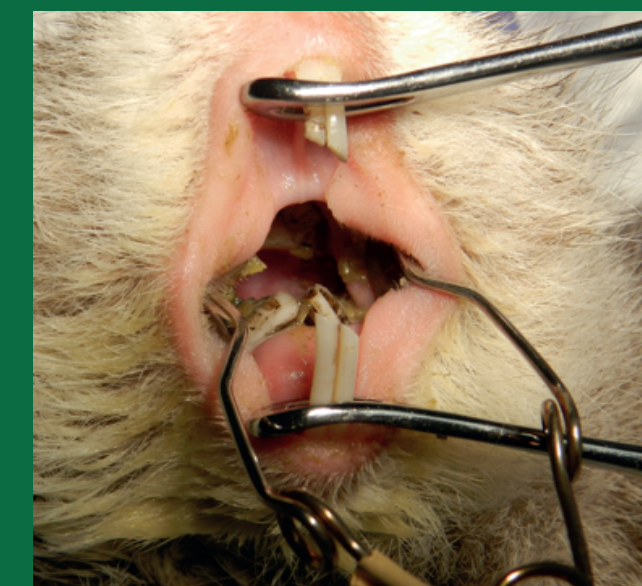
Further molar root elongation and bone cortex penetration



Dental Therapy



Overgrowth of molars leading to bridging over the tongue and difficulty prehending food, chewing and swallowing.



Molar bridging as picture left. In this case the incisors are meeting on the slant. This shows uneven chewing and is a major clue on examination that there is either molar dental disease or temporo-mandibular joint disease or ear disease.