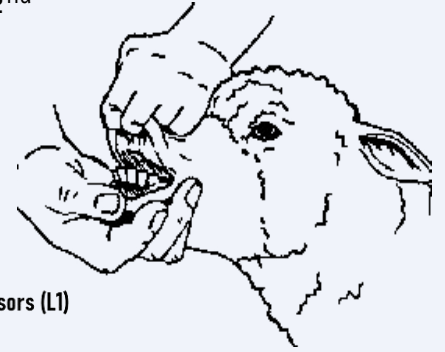


Aging Sheep & Goats **BY THEIR TEETH**

The approximate age of sheep/goats can be determined by examining their front incisor teeth. Lambs/kids have 8 milk teeth or temporary incisors arranged in 4 pairs on their lower jaw. Ruminants don't have any teeth on their upper front jaw, only a dental pad. At approximately 1 year of age, the middle pair of incisors is shed and replaced by permanent teeth (incisors). Some breeds mature at a faster rate, and their teeth will erupt at an earlier age. The condition of the teeth will also vary according to the type of feed and pasture grazed. At approximately 2 years of age, the 2nd pair of milk teeth is replaced by permanent incisor teeth. At 3 and 4 years of age, the 3rd and 4th pair of permanent teeth appear. At 4 years of age, the animal has a "full" or "solid" mouth. As the animal ages, the teeth become longer with wider spaces, eventually falling out or wearing down.



Birth to 12 months
Lamb/kid
8 milk or baby teeth



Yearling - 2-toothed
2 central incisors
6 milk teeth



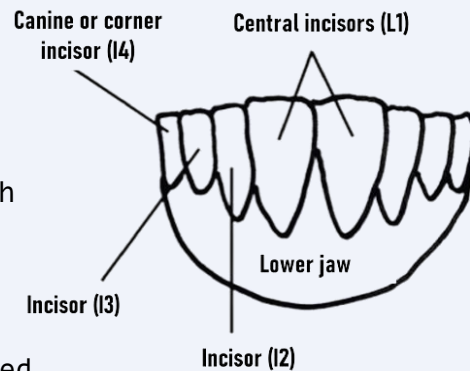
2 to 3 years - 4-toothed
2 central incisors
2 middle incisors
4 milk teeth



3 to 4 years - 6-toothed
2 central incisors
2 middle incisors
2 lateral incisors
2 milk teeth



4 to 5 years
8-toothed or full mouth
2 central incisors
2 middle incisors
2 lateral incisors
2 corner incisors



When an animal loses some of its teeth, it is called "broken" mouth. When it has no teeth (incisors) left; it is called a "gummer." Such animals have a more difficult time grazing, especially short pasture.



Solid mouth
7 to 8 years



Broken mouth
10 years old



"Gummer"
10 years old
No incisors left