



Formal Presentation Abstracts  
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**TEETH PROBLEMS IN SEA LIONS: FROM BEGINNING  
TO END THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
ANIMALS, TRAINERS, AND VETERINARIAN**

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Teeth challenges in sea lions are quite often not noticed until later stages of development, or not at all. Often these problems are missed because a mouth opening under control is not trained, or simply because one does not think about checking the mouth of an animal. Treatment is also a difficulty as it mainly requires anesthesia and surgery to terminate the problem.

At Nausicaa, important teeth problems were discovered in two animals. After antibiotic treatments of the infected site only providing a temporal amelioration, the animals allowed us to take pictures and radiographs which were read by a dentist specialized in exotic animals. Upon examination, surgery was recommended as unique definitive solution.

The animals were trained to enter a squeeze cage and accept an injection of pre-medication of the anesthesia. During the procedure, the canines that had to be retrieved proved to be quite large and perioste and bone re-sections had to be performed. Daily rinsing and disinfecting of the mouth were necessary post-operatively and voluntary radiographs of the lower maxillar have been regularly taken to monitor the healing of the bones.

In this presentation, we would like to explain the different desensitization steps and relative veterinary interest to obtain the following: mouth opening, pictures of the teeth, tooth brushing, radiographs, entering of the squeeze cage, voluntary IM injection, and local treatment of the mouth.

