

the case of the mare, the left maxillar P3 is lacking, but may have been lost post mortem. Weavemouth is a common condition in older domestic animals (Jubb and Kennedy, 1970, op. cit.) in which successive teeth in the molar arcade wear at different rates. In the antagonistic arcade the weave is reversed so that opposite occlusive surfaces remain appositive and occlusion can still be complete. The effect on mastication is therefore probably minimal and weavemouth may be considered of minor importance. The skull of an old mare (Fig. 9) also showed hook formation of the left mandibular P2. This condition results from incomplete longitudinal coincidence of the molar arcades which allows irregular wear.

In the skull of an adult mare which had lost two of her maxillar cheek teeth (left P4 and right M1), P4 and M1 of the left

mandibular molar arcade project beyond the level of the other teeth, while both mandibular P2's show hook formation (Figs. 10 and 11).

In most of these skulls the dental abnormalities were probably merely incidental post mortem findings. Even in the cases showing lesions consistent with periodontitis the inflammation was chronic rather than acute. The influence which the dental abnormalities described here may have had on the mortality of Cape mountain zebras in the MZNP remains speculative, but would seem to be unimportant.

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## Recuperation of a Severely Debilitated Wolf

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Opportunities are rare for determining the degree to which an animal can starve and still survive. Therefore we describe here an incident in which a wild wolf (*Canis lupus*) starved almost to death and was then restored to her former free-ranging state. The incident took place in northern Lake County, Minnesota.

Female wolf 6301 was captured, radio-

collared, and blood sampled as a pup on 3 September 1981; she weighed 13.5 kg. Between 28 and 30 December 1982, this wolf got caught in a steel foot trap set by fur trappers who failed to check their traps every 36 hr as required. We found her in the trap on 4 January, after a minimum of 5 days there. The wolf was lying on her side, with her head up. She then dropped her head, offered no resistance, and failed to respond while the trap was removed. She was emaciated and weighed 18.6 kg which is the lightest of 77 wild yearling or adult females from Minnesota for which we have records. The lightest of 22 well-fed, captive yearling and adult female

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