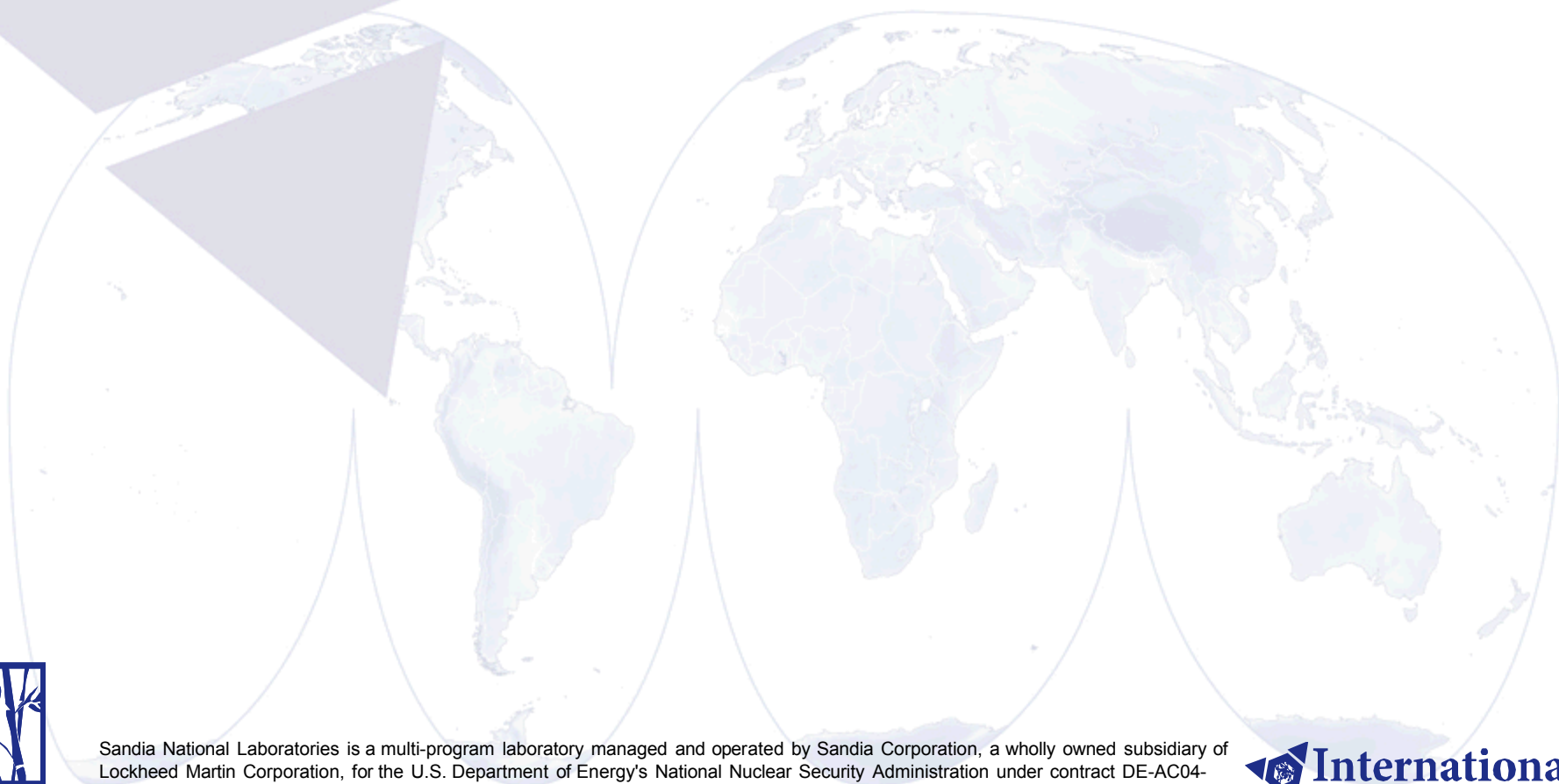


Oral Examination: Determination of Age



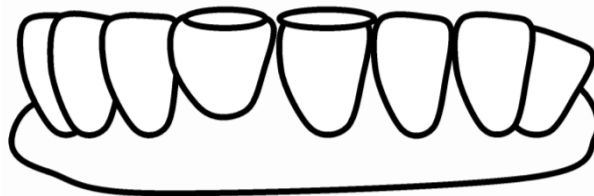
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Determination of Age

- **General age ranges can be determined by assessing the dental pattern of ruminants**
 - Age determination is based on eruption and wear of deciduous and permanent teeth
 - Dentition can be affected by diet and unusual wear and therefore the assessments made are only an estimate of age
- **Cattle have eight incisors that are located in the lower jaw**
- **Incisor teeth meet with the dental pad of the upper jaw:**
 - Two middle teeth are central incisors
 - Pair next to the central incisors are the middle incisors
 - Incisors next to the middle are the lateral incisors
 - Incisors next to the lateral incisors are the corner incisors





Determination of Age Cattle: 0-12 Months

- Calves are borne with or without teeth
- Calves have all of their deciduous teeth by the first month of life
- Deciduous teeth are much smaller than permanent teeth
- First pair of permanent molars erupt around 5 months
 - It is difficult to use premolars as a reference for age because the time of eruption is inconsistent

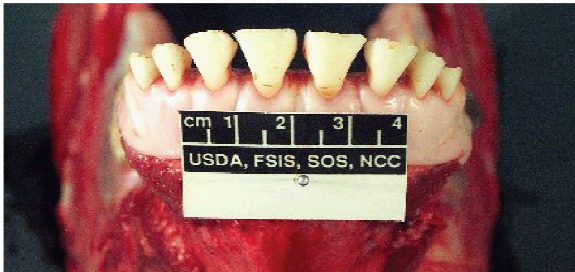




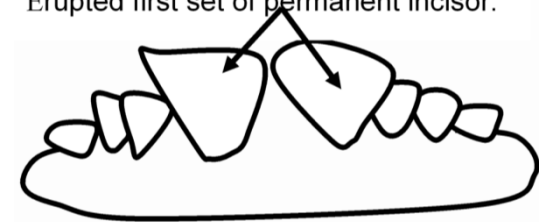
Determination of Age Cattle: 1 - 2 years

- Between the first and second year of life cattle the deciduous central incisors will be replaced by permanent incisors
- Central molars tend to erupt between 12 – 18 months

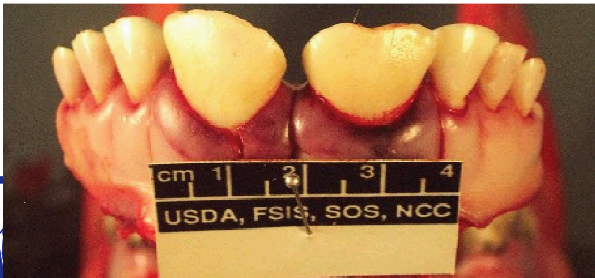
Less than 18 months

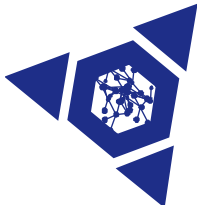


Erupted first set of permanent incisor.



20 - 24 months

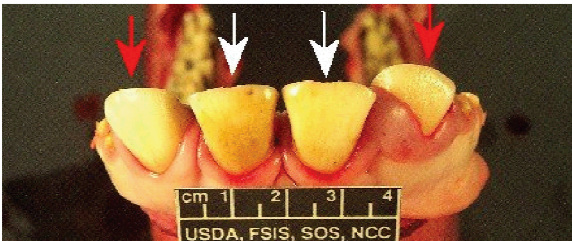




Determination of Age Cattle: 2 - 3 years

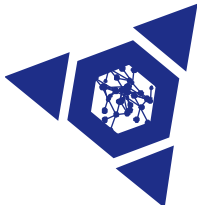
- Middle permanent incisors erupt at approximately 28 months
- The third pair of permanent molars appear between 24 and 30 months of age
- Lateral incisors erupt between 30 – 36 months

Less than 24 - 30 months



30 - 36 months

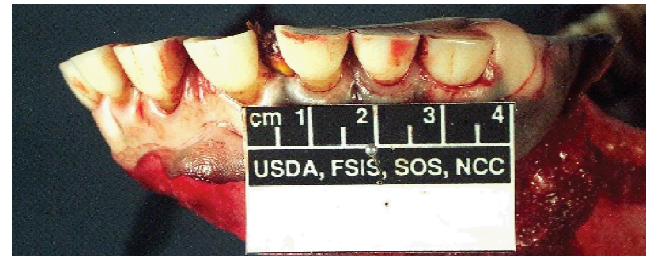
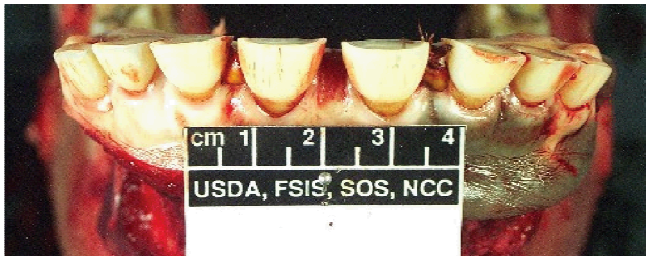




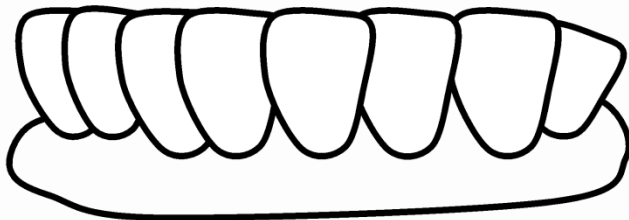
Determination of Age Cattle: 3 - 4 years

- By 48 months (4 years) cattle should have all of their permanent incisors
- At 5 – 6 years the teeth should show wear

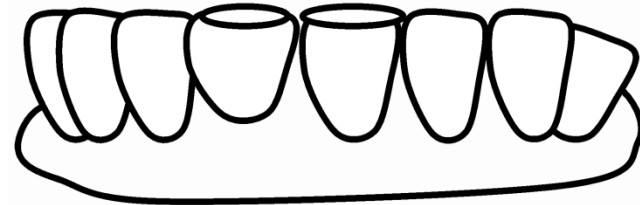
36 – 42 months



Full set of permanent incisors,
animal over 48 months of age.



Age 72 months, medial incisors
showing wear and leveled tops.





Determination of Age

AGING SHEEP AND GOATS

The lower incisors are also used in age estimations of sheep and goats. Because they develop teeth at about the same age, sheep and goats have similar eruption dates. The list below shows key dates in estimating the age of sheep or goats.

Goats

AGE OF SHEEP	STAGE OF TOOTH DEVELOPMENT
1 - 1 1/2 years	first permanent incisors erupt
1 1/2 - 2 years	second permanent incisors erupt
2 1/2 - 3 years	third permanent incisors erupt
3 - 4 years	last permanent incisors erupt

- **Dental patterns are similar in sheep and determination is the same**
 - The pattern of eruption is similar to cattle
- **Sheep and goats have eight incisors, and 12 molars**
- **Lambs and kids are born with deciduous teeth**

before age

Age of Sheep	Dental Pattern
1 – 1.5 years	Central permanent incisors erupt
1.5 – 2 years	Middle permanent incisors erupt
2.5 – 3 years	Lateral permanent incisors erupt
3 – 4 years	Corner permanent incisors erupt



Determination of Age Sheep and Goats

