



Dear ARC Judges Education Presenters and Mentors:

The situation at the National Sieger Show brought to light the fact that some judges are not paying the attention they should when checking the dentition of our Rottweilers. We have sent the letter below to the AKC Judges Newsletter in the hopes that the judges will “help us maintain the integrity of our Standard by making sure that every Rottweiler, whether in the classes or Best of Breed, has correct dentition.”

We also ask you, as those who are dealing with the future judges of our breed, to make sure that you reinforce how important dentition is to our breed and how important it is to make sure that a dog/bitch has the required 42 teeth.

We further ask that you all make sure that you understand how to count teeth by groups so that you can pass this knowledge on.

In Seminars, we suggest that you make sure that you give some extra time to dentition, including demonstrating how to count teeth by groups, preferably on a live dog.

If you are a mentor, we suggest that you copy the attached brief instructions & diagram and give to anyone to whom you act as a mentor. (Two are printed on the page for ease of copying.)

Both Presenters and Mentors also need to stress that if a judge is unable to see the dentition because of a dog not being cooperative, that they excuse the dog.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
The ARC Board

AMERICAN ROTTWEILER CLUB DENTITION AND THE ROTTWEILER

The American Rottweiler Club would like to request that judges examine our Rottweilers thoroughly for correct dentition. Our Standard calls for: ***Bite and Dentition - Teeth 42 in number (20 upper, 22 lower), strong, correctly placed, meeting in a scissors bite - lower incisors touching inside of upper incisors. Serious Faults - Level bite; any missing tooth. Disqualifications - Overshot, undershot (when incisors do not touch or mesh); wry mouth; two or more missing teeth.***

Unfortunately it has recently come to light that a dog ranked in the Top 10 Rottweilers both currently and last year, actually has 2 missing teeth and another dog with 2 missing teeth won a specialty show Stud Dog Class¹. Both of these dogs should have been disqualified under our Breed Standard. In the case of the Top 10 dog, numerous judges, including a number of breeder judges, have examined him, not only on his way to his Championship, but in his career as a “special”, and yet no one has ever disqualified the dog under our Standard.

The most common missing teeth are the P1s, but ANY tooth can be missing; in the above instance it is the two M3s, which are often small and much more difficult to see. We do realize that trying to “count teeth” in the 2 minutes allotted you to exam each dog is not an easy task. However, practice in counting teeth by groups can drastically cut down on the time needed to determine if all 42 teeth are present. (See page 10 of our Judges Handbook at <http://judgeseducation.com/rottweiler/index.html>. And if a dog is being uncooperative, please excuse him as “unable to examine”, rather than possibly pass on a dog with a serious or disqualifying fault.

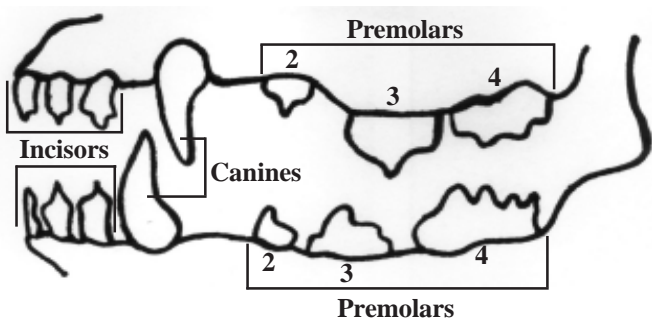
Dentition is of highest vital importance to the Rottweiler breed, so please help us maintain the integrity of our Standard. Thank you.

¹ AKC Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges: *The Stud Dog and Brood Bitch must also be examined to determine if there is a condition that would require disqualification* or excusal under the Rules, AKC policy or the breed standard.*

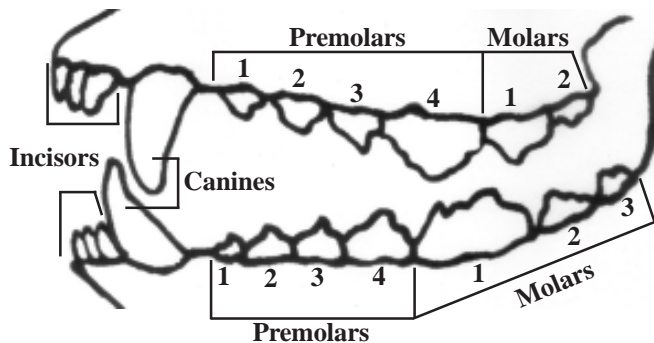
ROTTWEILER DENTITION

Adults should have 42 teeth. But remember when looking at puppies, they only have 28: 6 incisors, 2 canines, and 6 premolars (P2, P3, P4) on both the top and bottom. They do not have a P1, nor do they have any molars. Puppy teeth should all be in by 8 weeks and permanent, adult teeth should all be present by 8 months. Below are diagrams of both a puppy's and dog's dentition, as well as instructions for counting teeth in groups.

Puppy



Adult



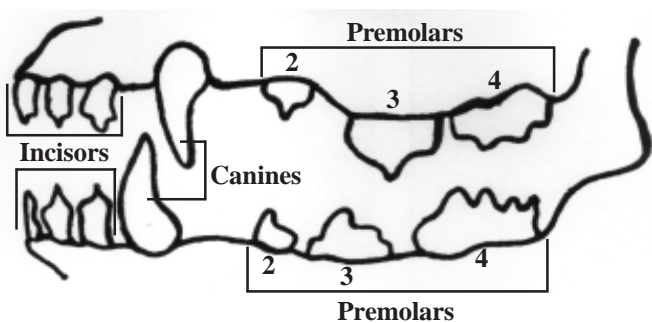
Counting teeth in groups:

Look for 6 incisors and 2 canines, both upper and lower. This can easily be done when checking the occlusion (bite).
 Look for 4 premolars and 3 molars on each lower side.
 And 4 premolars and 2 molars on each upper side.

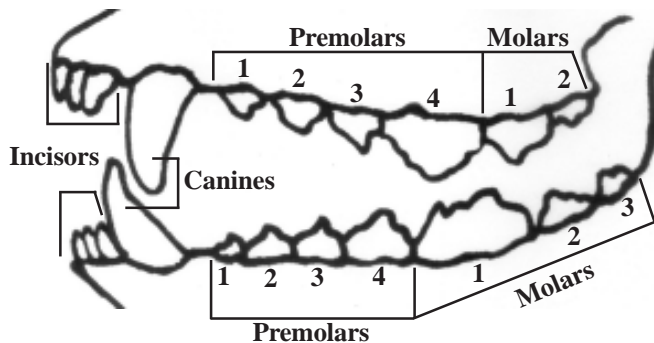
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