This presentation covers a miscellany of useful tips which I have accumulated, and learnt over the last twenty five years of being interested in veterinary dentistry. First opinion dentistry should be as routine in general practice as neutering currently is. Most general practitioners try to avoid doing more than a scale and polish because they perceive dentistry, and extractions in particular, as being difficult. I hope to show some simple ways to enable the general practitioner find dentistry much easier to perform, and maybe even pleasurable! This is not 'An A to Z of How to Perform Veterinary Dentistry', but rather some pointers based upon common errors I have seen while teaching colleagues.

The presentation will cover extractions, radiographs, traps, homecare advice, rabbits and rodents, and the working environment.

**Extractions.** In order to perform these well an understanding of the following is vital: the instruments needed, the structure of the periodontal ligament, the difference between canine and feline roots, root morphology and number in each tooth is required. The presentation will also touch upon 'interceptive orthodontics' whereby extracting overcrowded teeth early in life helps to prevent the loss of strategic teeth later on. With regards to the periodontal ligament, delegates will be invited to break an empty drinks can (to represent the ligament) in half. Trying to rip it, like a piece of paper, will fail, but the steady bending of it, back and forth, will fatigue the metal with relatively little effort until the can breaks in half.

**Radiographs.** The presentation will cover indications for radiography, the use of dedicated and general x-ray machines, the plates needed, a simple way of working out the bisecting angle technique, and references for home study of this very important topic.

**Traps.** It is very easy within a busy general practice to both over-diagnose and under-diagnose dental disease in patients. The difference between anorexia and dysphagia will be explored, the need to thoroughly investigate cases of facial abscesses, nasal discharge, loose teeth in old cats, and a discussion of mandibular fractures related to dental disease.

**Homecare.** The various methods of homecare for help in prevention of dental disease will be discussed, giving a balanced view of available evidence as to the effectiveness of the various options.

**Rabbits and Rodent Dentistry.** The need to examine and treat cheek teeth disease, and not just the obvious incisor overgrowth seen will be emphasised, and the ideal equipment to carry this out will be demonstrated.

**Working Environment.** Dentistry can be made far easier to perform if the working environment is setup correctly. The use of saddle stools, good lighting, and the correct placement of the patient are essential. The modified pen grip for dental instruments and hand pieces will be demonstrated, and the use of personal protective equipment such as eye protection, masks and gloves will be discussed.