



MUSKOXEN GET TOOTH ACHES TOO!

COMMUNITY-BASED MUSKOX AND CARIBOU
HEALTH MONITORING

Activity Update - October 2025



PARTNERS



Kugluktuk Angoniatit
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Olokhtomiut Hunters and
Trappers Committee



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WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

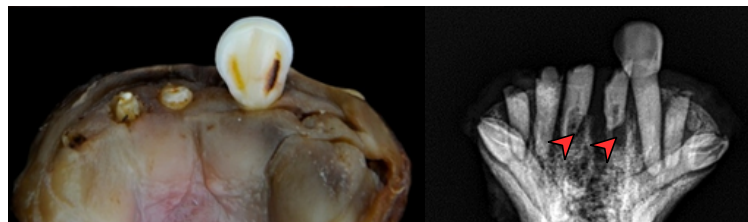
Through the community-based monitoring program, we began noticing severe dental abnormalities, particularly fractured incisors (front teeth) in muskoxen. To better understand these issues, we first recorded all visible abnormalities and then took X-rays of the jaws to look for any additional dental disease below the surface. This approach was to provide a more complete picture of how dental problems may be impacting muskoxen.



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WHAT ARE WE FINDING?

Using 243 muskox jaws we have found that muskoxen from **Victoria Island, especially around Cambridge Bay, have the most fractured incisor teeth**. We also found that these fractures lead to subsequent issues like **root infections and decay**. Another frequently recorded abnormality was the **wear of the anterior face of the incisors** and this was found in **mainland** muskoxen.



Fractures was
~5x more likely
to have
root disease



Anterior Wear
was ~2x more
likely to have root
disease

WHY DOES THIS WORK MATTER?

Muskoxen rely on strong, healthy teeth to eat properly and maintain the nutrition they need for survival and reproduction. When teeth become worn or broken, they can lead to **painful infections of the tooth root causing severe tooth aches**. Over time, this can reduce an animal's ability to forage effectively that results in poor body condition and compromised health.

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO MAKE OUR RESEARCH IN THE ARCTIC POSSIBLE

The Kutz Research Group works closely with arctic communities, territorial governments, and industry partners to investigate and monitor wildlife health in the North. The information and results presented here are a direct result of these collaborations. We thank all our collaborators and funders who have made this broader program successful. Please contact Susan Kutz skutz@ucalgary.ca if you have any questions about this program.



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