

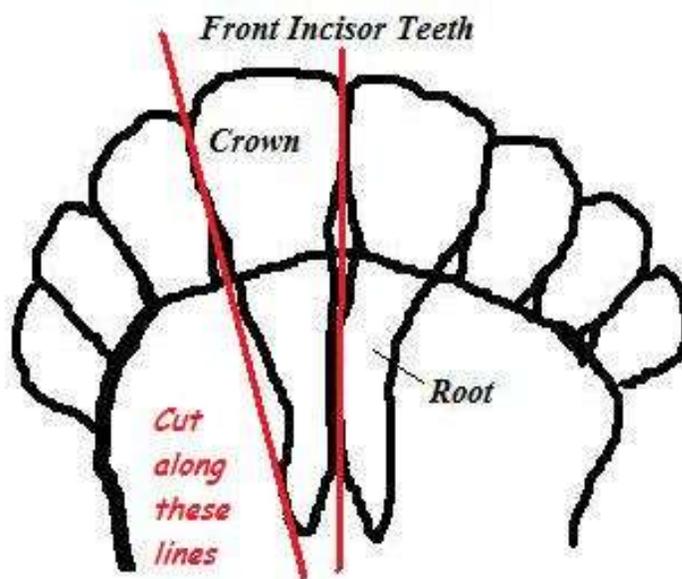
## **How to extract an Incisor Tooth** (from your Moose, Deer, Caribou or other Ungulate)

As part of completing your compulsory inspection for some species of ungulates harvested in particular portions of the province, submission of an incisor tooth is required with your Compulsory Inspection. Tooth submission and subsequent analysis can be a valuable tool for the ministry as it assists us in assessing and managing things such as population age structure, reproductive potential and impact of harvest seasons and their timing. Incisor Teeth only occur at the front of the lower jaw of an ungulate and their removal is easy and will not affect your opportunity to have the animal taxidermy mounted. It is important that teeth are removed from the jaw properly, to ensure they can be used by ministry staff to complete the aging and analysis aspects of wildlife management. Your assistance in taking care to properly remove a tooth from the jaw, clean it and submit it is an important part of this process.

### **Extracting the teeth**

Incisor teeth can be easily extracted from the freshly killed hooved animal or ungulate; their removal becomes much more difficult if the jaw has been dried. To remove a tooth:

1. Cut down through the gum tissue on either side of the root with a thin-bladed sharp knife. It is preferred to select one of the center teeth, as they have the largest developed root and are best to work with.
2. Grasp the top of the tooth with your Leatherman or a pair of pliers and pull it out with twisting motion. It is also often possible to simply push the tooth out with your thumb, if you have cut down deep enough into the gum. Clean off the soft tissue and any jaw bone material from the tooth. Do not cut into the root or submit a tooth with a broken root as it is the root portion of the tooth that is used in aging. If the jawbone has dried prior to tooth extraction, soften it by soaking in hot water and then carefully extract the intact tooth as described above.



### **IMPORTANT:**

Please do not include any soft tissue (gum tissue, muscle, hide) with the tooth.

Please do not store your tooth in a plastic bag.

Teeth do not need special handling or storage for a few weeks or a month prior to completion of your Compulsory Inspection. Cleaned teeth (do not use bleach), preferably dried, inside a paper envelope that is labelled to ensure proper identification later.