

PREVALENCE RECURRENT LARYNGEAL NEUROPATHY (RLN)

- Horses of any age from birth onwards may be afflicted with RLN, and it has been shown that the disorder can be progressive, i.e. normal or slightly afflicted horses may deteriorate. Horses over 16 hands tall are most susceptible, and RLN becomes increasingly rare in horses below 15.2 hands. The prevalence of RLN in the Thoroughbred is not known, and there are widely varying estimates (0.96–95%) in the literature.
- The frequency of true hemiplegia, i.e. where there are no active abductory or adductory movements whatever by the left arytenoid cartilage and vocal fold, is in the order of 2%.
- The clinical signs of RLN usually appear before the horse is 6 years of age.