

CLINICAL SIGNS OF RECURRENT LARYNGEAL NEUROPATHY (RLN)

- • Horses afflicted with RLN usually produce consistent inspiratory sounds which can be heard throughout the period of exertion at the canter and gallop.
- • The sounds themselves may range from a low-grade musical 'whistle' similar to the noise produced by blowing over the top of an empty bottle, to a harsh 'roaring' noise like sawing wood.
- • Disappearance of the sounds can be expected within a short period of pulling up; horses with RLN recover a resting respiratory rate in a normal period.
- • Occasionally horses with RLN produce adventitious respiratory noises only under extreme exertion, and, unless examined by endoscopy, it is not possible to determine whether the noise stems from abrupt dynamic collapse of the paralysed arytenoid cartilage or from secondary Dorsal Displacement Soft Palate.
- • The athletic potential of horses which exercise aerobically is likely to be compromised by RLN. However, the impact on the performance of horses which are involved in anaerobic sports, such as sprint racing, will be less marked.