



LONGFORD EQUINE CLINIC

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Throat Surgery Aftercare

Postoperative care varies depending on the surgery performed. The following procedures all involve a laryngotomy incision under the throat which is left open. To those unfamiliar with such a wound it may initially look a little messy. As the wound communicates with the throat there may on occasion be some food and water discharge when the horse eats or drinks, until the wound is healed (usually 2-3 weeks) This is normal. This wound should be gently cleaned every second or third day with warm water until healed. Any sutured wounds should have sutures removed 10-14 days post surgery.

Prosthetic Laryngoplasty/Ventriculectomy (roarer):

These horses need to be box or small yard rested for 1 month post surgery. They then need a further 2 months paddock rest. It is very important to prevent a horse that has had roarer surgery from exercising in that first month, because this can cause increased movement of the suture and could increase the risk of surgical failure.



Normal



Laryngeal hemiplegia (roarer)

Soft Palate & Epiglottic Entrapment Surgery:

These horses do not need to be boxed. They do need to be monitored and have their laryngotomy wound regularly cleaned until healed. They then need to be paddock rested for a further month before resuming work.



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Complications from surgical procedures include:

Prosthetic Laryngoplasty:

Occurs in a portion of horses, including: coughing, aspiration of food or dirt particles into the trachea causing pneumonia, incisional infection, infection of the suture, breakage of the suture and failure to maintain abduction of the cartilage. Coughing is the most common complication and is often seen immediately following surgery; however, only 5 to 10% of horses will remain chronic coughers

Epiglottic Entrapment:

In a small percentage of cases these horses will go on to permanently or intermittently displace their soft palate. Additionally some will prove to have hypoplastic or mis-shapen epiglottis's which led to the original entrapment.

Prognosis depends on your horse's required level of performance and surgical treatment performed. Overall success rates ranges from 50-90%; racehorses and those with a higher demand for airflow have slightly lower success rates while show horses, draft horses, and pleasure horses tend to have higher success rates because the overall demand on the airway is lower as compared to a racehorse.