

Equine Dynamic Scope in use at Delaney Veterinary Services

Delaney Veterinary Services in conjunction with Dr. Steve Smith is now able to offer their clients dynamic evaluation of horses' upper airway. This technology gives our veterinarians the ability to evaluate a horse's upper airway under working conditions.



Dr. Shoemaker and Dr. Smith can now evaluate your horse with a video endoscope at rest and at work, giving a much clearer evaluation of the horse's airway function. The limitation of standing endoscopy is that it can primarily detect structural problems but it does a less than ideal job at picking up problems only apparent under working conditions. Unfortunately, the majority of upper airway issues only occur when the airway is working hard, not at rest.

Do all performance horses need a dynamic scope?

No, but... endoscopy at work is ideal for horses with a history or poor performance, respiratory noise under work or early fatigue in a "fit" horse.

What does the procedure entail?

The dynamic scope is placed in the horse's nose and secured via a special head set. The video processor and transmitter are fitted on a special saddle pad and the image is recorded. The image is also displayed in real time on a monitor for our veterinarian to evaluate. This helps us correlate airway issues with environmental events (example- turning a barrel). Some information is immediate; however, the video is later reviewed in slow motion to pinpoint all abnormalities. A typical appointment length for dynamic endoscopy is one hour.



Please contact Dr. Shoemaker or Dr. Smith at the clinic if you have any further questions. Appointments can be booked through our client care specialist, Brittaney, at 780-922-3647.



Figure 1: Still image of a barrel horse's upper airway taken during exercise.

Do I have to bring my horse to the clinic?

No. We can perform the procedure at any place you can safely exercise the horse. This includes arenas and at the race track.

What happens after the appointment?

After the appointment, we will review the footage and contact you with the results. This may include medical management or surgical intervention.



Delaney Veterinary Services
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