



POST RACE ENDOSCOPY

Post race endoscopy was introduced gradually in the 1990s following a request from the National Trainers Federation (NTF) that this service be provided at racecourses. This was in the belief that it would provide valuable information on horses that had performed below expectations with particular focus on determining the degree of any Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage (EIPH) diagnosed in these cases. It was agreed by the Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons (ARVS) that this service would be provided wherever possible and today it is generally available on all racecourses.

The examination should be restricted to the evaluation of tracheal contents only and a standardised form available at the racecourse allows the veterinary surgeon to grade the findings for blood or muco-pus.

BEVA is of the view that this examination is not appropriate for evaluating causes of upper airway obstruction. The preferred 'window' for identification of EIPH is 30 –90 minutes after the end of the race. The clinical significance of small amounts of blood within the trachea is difficult to assess, indeed the evidence to support EIPH as a significant cause of performance loss is still somewhat limited.

All parties must accept that post race endoscopy necessarily has a lower priority for the veterinary team than the treatment of casualties or the attendance on the track during a race. The trainer should pay for the cost of the examination.

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