



## OVER-GROUND ENDOSCOPY

**‘Scoping on the move’ service available through Minster Equine**

Over recent years it has become apparent that to reliably diagnose obstructive conditions of the performance horse’s upper airway the horse’s airway should be viewed endoscopically, at exercise. Until recently the only way to perform this was on a treadmill. This required the horse travelling to a referral centre with a treadmill and required a period of training for the horse to get used to galloping on the treadmill. Now with the advent of overground dynamic endoscopy the horse can be fitted with an endoscope which is connected to a recording pack on the horse or rider and the horse can be exercised on a gallop. The images are then analysed frame by frame, to look for any abnormalities causing upper airway obstruction which may be very transitory in nature but have serious consequences on the horses performance. Conditions such as dorsal displacement of the soft palate can really only be diagnosed with mobile

endoscopy as often the picture at rest does not reflect the situation at exercise. Many horses will displace their soft palate at rest which does not necessarily mean they will do it at exercise. Equally a horse’s larynx showing a degree of paralysis at rest may not reflect what it is capable of at maximal exertion. Some conditions such as axial deviation of the aryepiglottic folds (ADAF) and epiglottic retroversion are only visible at exercise.



**Normal larynx at exercise**



**Laryngeal paralysis and dorsal displacement of soft palate**



**Axial deviation of the Aryepiglottic folds**

Minster Equine have now been running a dynamic endoscopy session once a month for the last six months and will be holding another at a local trainers in May. If you have a horse that you think may benefit from this examination please contact the clinic.

