Post –op care for Tieback Surgery in Horses

Clean the suture line or surgical site only if directed by your vet. The use of harsh antiseptics and cleaners is usually not needed. If you do clean the suture line, use a paper towel moist in very dilute antiseptic and gently dab the line

Horses are rested for 4-6 weeks following the procedure and usually returned to work at 45-60 days.

Improvement in air flow is effective immediately after the surgery. Coughing should be minimal and gradually decrease with time.

Possible Complications

* The larynx remains at least partially open and unprotected from food leading to aspiration of feed and dust getting into the windpipe resulting in chronic coughing. In some cases inflammation and pneumonia may also result.
* The large suture may break, causing failure of the procedure.
* Local swelling and infection of the surgery site, seroma formation.
* In rare cases, the cartilage becomes chronically inflamed, resulting in arytenoid chondritis that obstructs air flow.
* In some cases, the procedure does not help enough to allow a horse to return to a high level of function. This is especially true for flat racing horses that have the greatest demand for airflow.

CONSIDER REASONS NOT TO USE THIS TREATMENT

Laryngoplasty should be reserved for severe cases of laryngeal hemiplegia. It should not be used in cases that can be managed more conservatively because of the potential complications and side effects.

Many pleasure horses may have breathing-related noise but do not require surgery.