

Esophageal Obstruction “Choke”

What is it: esophageal blockage, usually caused by food, such as beet pulp, roughage, or grain eaten too quickly.

Clinical signs:

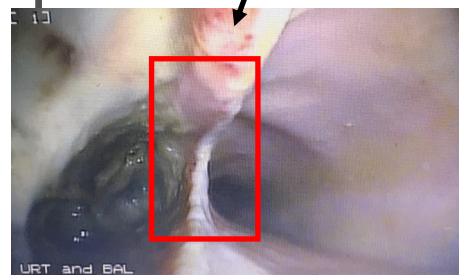
- * Anxiousness
- * Standing with neck extended
- * Frothy nasal discharge that contains feed material
- * Salivation
- * Coughing

What to do:

CALL THE VET!

While waiting for the vet, put your horse in a stall with no shavings, water, or food. Try to keep the horse calm so the head remains lowered.

Rupture site



What can go wrong:

- * Aspiration Pneumonia: feed material aspirated in the lungs causing pneumonia.
- * Esophageal rupture: the esophagus can rupture if a choke is left in place for too long
- * Dehydration/colic: a horse may not want to drink water while choking, which can cause dehydration. This in turn can lead to a colic episode

