

Equine Respiratory Disease: What are we calling it now?



IAD=inflammatory airway disease
“mild to moderate asthma”

RAO=recurrent airway obstruction
“severe asthma”
Also known as heaves

	IAD	RAO
Age of Onset	Usually young to middle age, but can be seen at any age	Usually > 7 years of age
Common clinical signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Poor performance* Occasional cough* No increased respiratory efforts at rest!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Exercise intolerance* Regular to frequent coughing* Increased respiratory efforts at rest!

REMEMBER!

All horses exhibiting respiratory signs should be seen by a vet to rule out the possibility of other, potentially more serious, respiratory conditions:

1. Bronchopneumonia/Pleuropneumonia
2. Viral infections
3. Lungworm Infection
4. Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage



How do we treat equine asthma?

MEDICAL MANAGEMENT

“reduce lower airway inflammation”

1. Corticosteroids

Systemic

intravenous

intramuscular

oral

Inhaled

Examples include dexamethasone,
prednisolone, triamcinolone,
fluticasone

2. Bronchodilators

Inhaled

Oral

Examples include albuterol,
clenbuterol

*Inhaled medications require the use of a
specialized delivery device (equine inhaler)

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

“decrease inhalation of dust & molds”

1. Feed soaked hay

*Soak hay for at least 20 minutes, but be
careful of leaching nutrients if hay is soaked
for too long

*Consider steaming hay

2. Discourage round bale usage

3. Remove hay from diet

*Feed complete pelleted feed or soaked hay
cubes/pellets

4. Well ventilated and clean housing

5. Good quality bedding

*Avoid sawdust and straw bedding

6. Remove horse from stall during cleaning

7. Consider keeping the horse outside 24/7

*Unless pasture allergens trigger asthma
symptoms



REMEMBER!

A word on supplements...

Few supplements on the market have
been evaluated in well controlled
scientific studies.

Aleira is one supplement that has
been evaluated in a clinical trial.

Environmental management is a key and
critical factor in controlling equine asthma. If
strict environmental management is not
instituted, medical management may not
control all symptoms of equine asthma.