

- SOP No:** ATT 050
- SUBJECT:** Trans-tracheal wash in horses
- POLICY:** This procedure may only be performed by operators who have been educated in the correct techniques, and under the supervision of their skilled Demonstrator. Leather boots and clean overalls must be worn.
- PRECAUTIONS:** The horse will be placed in a crush and will be suitably restrained by a skilled handler. A nose twitch will be used if additional restraint is required. The person performing the procedure must wear surgical gloves.
- EQUIPMENT:** Halter & lead  
Twitch  
Crush  
Lignocaine 2%  
Xylazine 100 mg/ml  
Butorphanol 10 mg/ml  
Phenylbutazone 200 mg/ml or 1 g/sachet  
21-25 Gauge Needles  
60 ml syringe  
2.5 ml syringes  
Animal Clippers  
Hibiclens & Alcohol Swabs  
No 15. Scalpel Blade  
10- or 12-Gauge Catheter  
5Fr or 6Fr Sterile Dog Urinary Catheter  
Sterile Saline  
Gauze Swabs  
Roll of Elastoplast
- PROCEDURE:**
1. The horse is sedated with 0.2-0.5 mg/kg of Xylazine  $\pm$  0.02-0.05 mg/kg of Butorphanol (if needed). If additional restraint is required a nose twitch may be applied.
  2. An area over the middle to lower trachea is clipped and surgically prepared with appropriate skin disinfection.
  3. A small volume (1-2 ml) of local anaesthetic is injected under the skin over the trachea and a small stab incision with a No. 15 scalpel blade is made.
  4. The trachea is stabilized with one hand and a 10- or 12-gauge catheter is inserted in a downward direction through the skin incision into the lumen of the trachea, taking care to penetrate between the tracheal rings and not to damage the tracheal rings on the opposite side of the trachea.
  5. A 5Fr or 6Fr dog urinary catheter is then passed through the 10- or 12-gauge catheter and down the trachea to the level of the carina.
  6. Sterile saline (20-50ml) is injected into the tracheal lumen and aspiration is performed.

7. After collection of the sample, the urinary catheter is removed first, followed by the 10- or 12-gauge catheter.
8. A bandage is applied for 24 hours after the procedure and the horse is also administered with 2.2 mg/kg of phenylbutazone intravenously or orally.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**DATE ISSUED:** 24.06.2009

**REVISED:**

**REFERENCES:**

1. Rose, R.J. and Hodgson, D.R. Manual of Equine Practice. pp 191-193. Second Edition. W.B. Saunders. Philadelphia. 2000.