How do you treat chondritis and pharyngitis?

Chondritis and pharyngitis actually describe two very different conditions that sometimes can occur together.

Equine pharyngitis describes a condition in which the diffusely located lymphoid tissue enlarges and results in numerous small bumps on the surface of the pharynx. This condition also can be described as lymphoid hyperplasia or follicular hyperplasia.

Lymphoid enlargement generally is caused by inflammation from a viral or bacterial infection. This often is observed in young horses and, in most cases, the inflammation is mild and self-limiting.

In more severe cases, the inflammation can affect the normal function of the pharynx leading to possible pharyngeal collapse or dorsal displacement of the soft palate.

Treatment involves the administration of anti-inflammatory agents and antibiotics. Anti-inflammatory agents can be applied topically using “throat spray” solutions. Throat sprays often contain corticosteroids that help treat the inflammation within the pharynx.

Chondritis is inflammation of the laryngeal cartilages and most notably the arytenoid cartilage (arytenoid chondritis). The inflammation can be caused by trauma or a low grade infection involving the arytenoid cartilage. The affected arytenoid generally is enlarged and may have an ulcer or small elevated site of granulation tissue (called a granuloma).

The opposite arytenoid can develop a “kissing lesion” caused by contact with the affected arytenoid. The condition often is progressive and can lead to complete paralysis of the affected arytenoid. In some cases, horses can have difficulty breathing and make a loud respiratory noise.

Treatment should initially involve systemic anti-inflammatory agents and antibiotics. Local therapy consisting of antiseptics and corticosteroids (throat spray) also can be used.

A temporary or permanent tracheotomy may be necessary in case of severe airway obstruction due to swelling of the affected area. Surgical removal of a granuloma on the arytenoid can be performed using a laser. In some cases, a portion of the affected arytenoid (partial arytenoidectomy) is removed to improve airflow and, potentially, athletic performance.

Belmont Park

Stakes-placed Patience Drive (Pulpit) will try to secure her first career stakes victory on Thursday in the $60,000 Key to the Bridge Stakes, a 1 1/16-mile turf race for fillies and mares that is restricted to horses who have not won a stakes since November 1.

Mountaineer Race Track

On Monday evening, Rapid Redux (Pleasantly Perfect) extended his unbeaten streak to 12 starts with a 4 1/2-length victory in a one-mile starter allowance race.

During the win streak, Rapid Redux has won twice at Mountaineer, four times at Penn National Race Course, three times at Laurel Park, twice at Charles Town Races, and once at Parx Racing.

Suffolk Downs

The East Boston, Massachusetts, track canceled today’s card, its third of the year, because the track could not fill enough races.

Chief Operating Officer Chip Tuttle said there are about 600 horses currently stabled at the track.

“ar the weather of the last few weeks has interrupted training and, in turn, put a strain on entries,” Tuttle said. “We anticipate that things will pick up over the next several days and we can resume racing as scheduled.”

Opening day, including simulcasting of the Preakness Stakes (G1), drew a crowd of 11,372, according to track officials.