

**Range Animal Hospital**

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## Laryngeal Paralysis

- This is an uncommon surgery performed on dogs in our practice, but should be considered a rule-out with most cases of dyspnea.
- Overrepresented in large breed dogs, including the Labrador, Golden Retriever, Husky, Bouvier, Dalmatian, St. Bernard, & Newfoundland.
- Diagnosis is made via laryngeal examination of the arytenoid cartilages while under heavy sedation or light anesthesia. The lateral abduction of the arytenoids should be bilaterally symmetric on inspiration.
- Laryngeal paralysis is most commonly unilateral and on the left side.
- We have had the best success with arytenoid lateralization (the ‘tie-back’ procedure).
- While most cases are idiopathic, hypothyroidism is a known cause and a T4 level is appropriate. Additionally, tumor of the anterior chest is a known cause, and thoracic radiographs are also indicated.
- While surgical correction is indicated if clinical signs are significant, there is a risk of aspiration pneumonia at any time post-operatively. We extubate and examine arytenoid position intraoperatively and adjust tension as needed to establish abduction without excess tension. This has resulted in limited complications in our cases.
- We do these procedures on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays as our schedule allows. Cases typically have a 1 or 2 night hospitalization.
- We will coordinate postoperative aftercare with your hospital. Typical care includes:
  - A 4-5 day postoperative incision check.
  - A 10-12 day suture removal.
- Uncomplicated cases are typically \$1200 to \$1300. [January 2011]. Ask for an estimate.