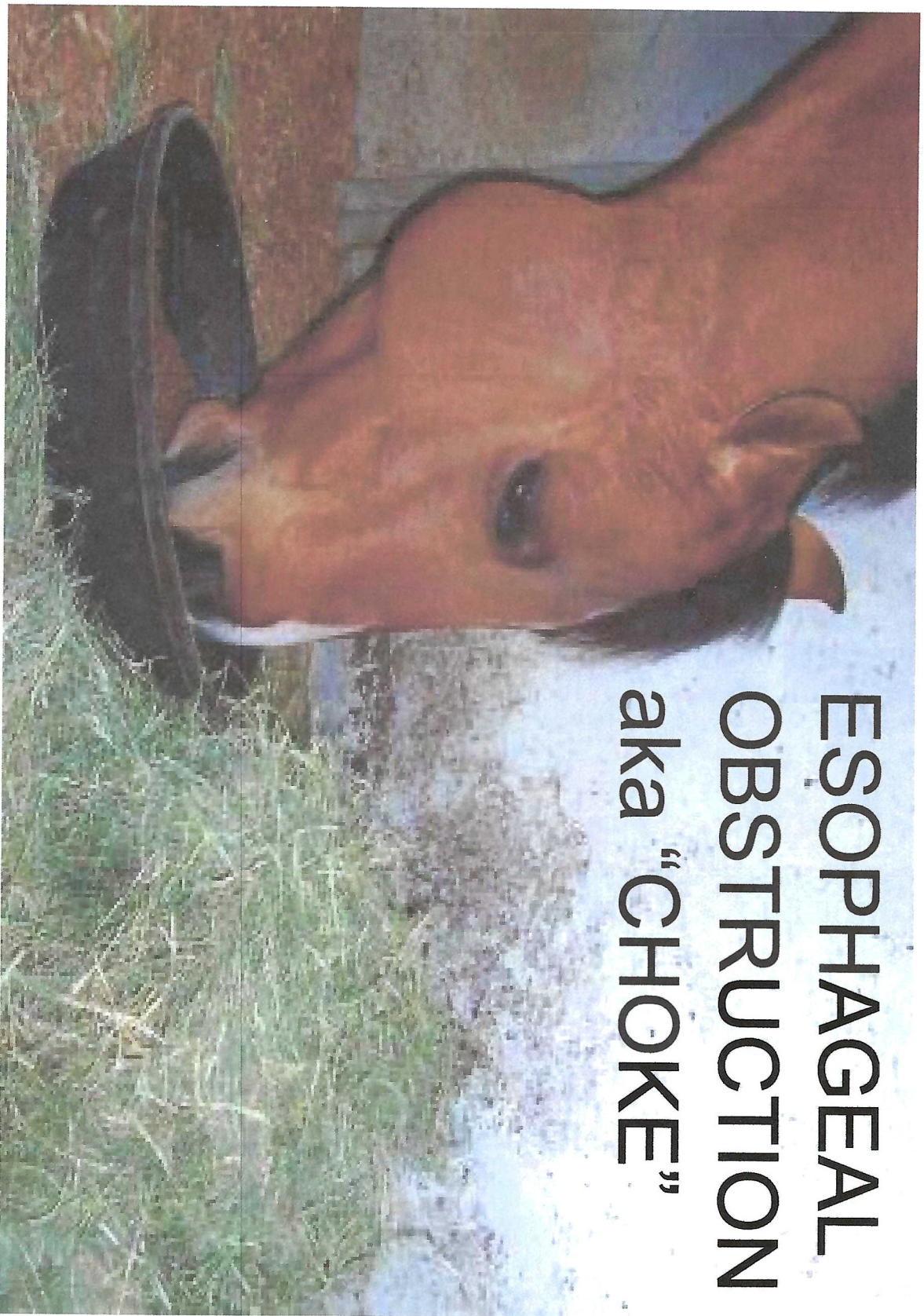


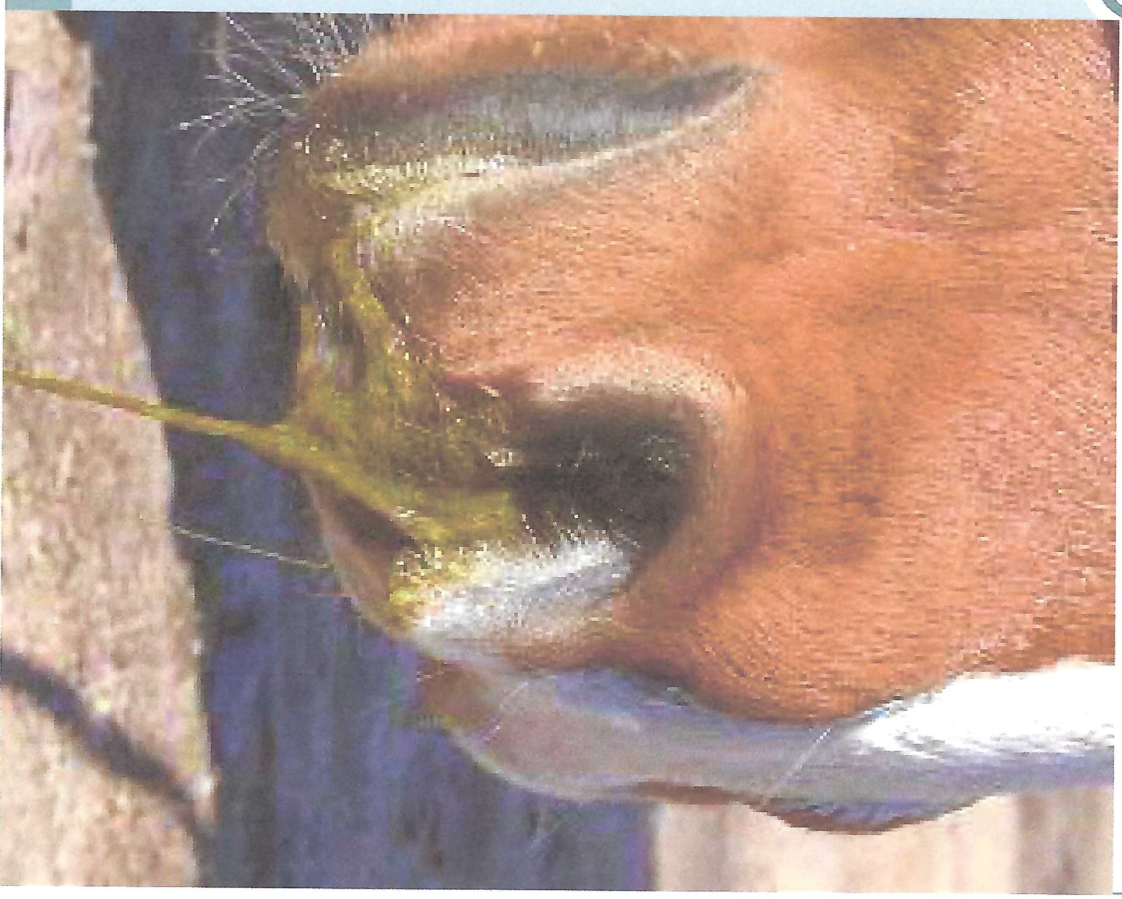
**ESOPHAGEAL  
OBSTRUCTION  
aka "CHOKE"**





## SIGNS OF CHOKE

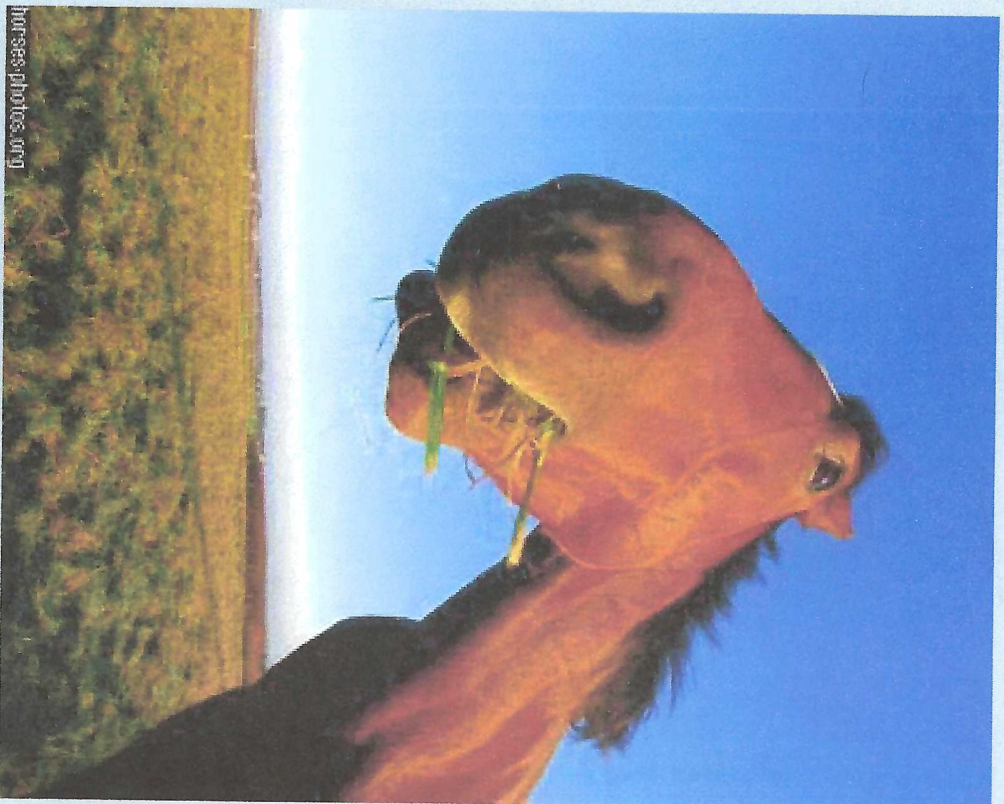
- Coughing and retching
- Extending the neck
- Large amounts of nasal discharge containing food and saliva
- May be able to feel the obstruction





## FUN FACT

  
**Pilchuck**  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
*The future of veterinary medicine  
In your community today.*




[horses.photos.org](http://horses.photos.org)

Horses are obligate nasal breathers – they have to breathe through their nose, so even when they are choking they can breathe.

(Choke is still an emergency though!)



# WHAT SHOULD I DO?

  
**Pilchuck**  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
*The future of veterinary medicine  
in your community today.*



- Call your veterinarian immediately!
- If left untreated can lead to
  - Aspiration pneumonia
  - Rupture of the esophagus



# UNTIL THE VET ARRIVES...



*The future of veterinary medicine  
in your community today.*

- Remove all food and water
- Keep the horse calm
- Try to keep his head lowered
- Sometimes obstruction will pass on its own



\*