



Ark Vet Centre

Equine Newsletter



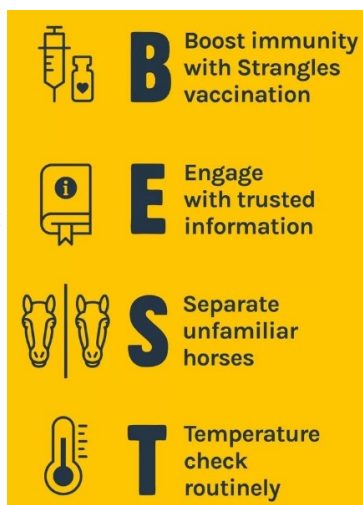
May 2025



Welcome to the May newsletter and the start of strangles awareness week. Strangles Awareness Week is a global, collaborative effort to promote the best preventative actions to safeguard horses against strangles and to encourage owners to take proactive measures in disease prevention.

In the last 3 months of 2024 there were a total of 79 strangles cases diagnosed and reported to the equine infectious disease surveillance organisation. 70% were clinically ill and the rest were detected in routine screening tests. Many more cases will go unrecorded and unreported.

Whether you're an occasional happy hacker or an elite professional, Strangles doesn't discriminate and all horses will benefit from four practical actions to help protect them from infection. Start using the BEST steps so we can reduce the risk of Strangles in our own horses and those across the UK.



Boost immunity with vaccination

Strangvac was launched in 2022 it is administered into the muscle and horses need 2 vaccines a month apart followed by repeat boosters every 6-12 months.

Vaccinated horses either do not develop signs of Strangles following exposure to the disease, or experience milder and more short-lived effects.

The vaccine contains no live strangles bacteria and does not affect diagnostic tests so vaccinating does not interfere with blood sampling for strangles before moving yards etc.

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As a practice we haven't currently had much uptake for the vaccine but see it as potentially a very important tool in the face of an outbreak or on large livery yards where there's lots of horse movements on and off the yard.

Engage with trusted info

Staying up to date with the latest research means we can constantly offer the best advice. One recent study showed that in 108 ponies infected with Strangles, each one presented with fever before they developed abscesses. This brought into sharp focus the fact that by spotting a raised temperature as early as possible, we can take steps to quarantine a horse before they have chance to spread infection to others, potentially preventing one infected horse becoming a whole infected yard.

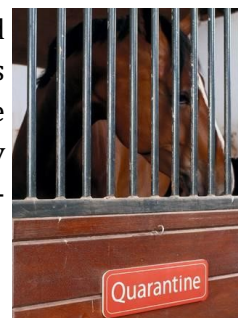
Separate Unfamiliar horses

Do not allow new horses to be in direct contact with other horses on the yard, and avoid transmitting bacteria on shared surfaces, equipment or water sources, or on people's hands, boots or clothing. Strangles isn't an airborne disease, so as long as there is either a solid partition, or enough distance to prevent mucus that is coughed or snorted landing outside the quarantine boundary, bacteria can be contained and other horses protected.

Temperature checks

A healthy temperature is likely to be somewhere between 36°C and 38°C. A temperature of 38.5°C or above in horses is classed as fever. Fever is typically the first sign of Strangles and tends to develop around 2-3 days before the horse becomes infectious to others, so by spotting a fever and getting the horse isolated straight away we can help control the spread of the disease.

There is loads more information available at the following link + please phone and speak to us if you have any queries. <https://www.redwings.org.uk/strangles/strangles-awareness-week>



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