

Strangles: Speak Out!

Notes for Part One - Key Facts

Use these notes below in conjunction with the presentation entitled “Strangles: Part One - Key Facts”.

- Slide 1** This is the first of two presentations.
We will talk about the key facts about Strangles, what signs to look out for, and how to prevent the disease.
- Slide 2** Ask your staff what they already know about Strangles. It doesn't matter if they give the 'wrong' answers at this stage. This will help you to gauge your staff's level of knowledge.
- Slide 3** Here are a few key facts about the disease.
- It's the most commonly diagnosed equine infectious disease
 - It's an respiratory infection that affects the nose and throat
 - It is NOT airborne. It is passed on through physical contact. This can be direct contact between horses, or indirect contact through equipment or human skin
 - There is a 10% risk of complications such as 'Bastard Strangles' (where the infection spreads to other parts of the body and is almost always fatal) or Purpura Haemorrhagica (caused by a complication within the immune system as it fights the Strangles virus, causing damage to blood vessels and leading to swelling around the body)
 - All horses are at risk of Strangles Young, old and horses with weaker immune systems are especially at risk.
- Slide 4** Ask your staff what they think the early and advanced symptoms of the disease might be.
- Slide 5** Early signs are:
- A sore throat, shown by a loss of appetite, difficulty eating

or difficulty extending the head

- Lymph node swelling (the area where the head and neck join)
- Depression
- Fever (Temperature above 38.5 C)
- A cough

Slide 6

Advanced signs:

- Thick nasal discharge. Nasal discharge can be a symptom of other diseases too, so its important that it is investigated by a vet quickly as to get an accurate diagnosis
- Abscesses on the side of the head, throat or under the jaw

Slide 7

Ask your staff if they think this horse has Strangles

Slide 8

Yes, he does. He is a Strangles 'carrier'. He has the Strangles virus but is not showing any symptoms. Carriers can shed the virus during times of stress and pass the disease on to other horses.

Carriers may have occasional nasal discharge which could go noticed. This is another reason why nasal discharge should be investigated promptly.

Slide 9

Like all diseases, prevention is better than cure. Here are a few ways we can help stop Strangles from entering our yard...

Slide 10

So now we know the key facts, how to spot the signs, and how to prevent the disease coming onto the yard, let's talk about quarantine.

Having a quarantine yard ready will help to control an outbreak more quickly, and will also be handy if we had an outbreak of any other disease such as lice or ringworm.

It may be a good idea to discuss with your staff how Strangles is perceived by horse owners and think of ways they can share their new knowledge with other people.