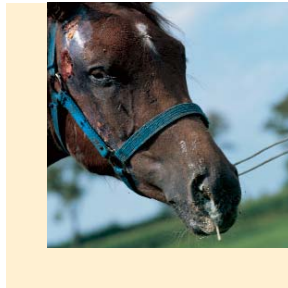


What are the symptoms?

Strangles is characterised by:

- *Raised temperature*
- *Nasal discharge*
- *Cough*
- *Lymph node abscesses*
- *Respiratory distress*



Sometimes the clinical signs are so obvious that your vet can make a diagnosis based on them. However, this is not always the case and swab cultures from the nose may be required for further investigation. Please note that a vet's diagnosis is always necessary as a horse may show some of the above symptoms but have a different condition.


Can it be treated?

If the disease is diagnosed at an early stage, your vet will decide if antibiotics are needed. However, if diagnosis takes place after abscesses have formed, your vet may need to lance them to encourage draining.

Most horses make a full recovery, with only about one per cent of cases proving fatal. Up to 10% may develop what's called 'bastard' strangles, characterised by abscesses throughout the body. Horses with bastard strangles rarely recover fully.

Equilis StrepE – The UK's first strangles vaccine



Equilis StrepE is a vaccine for submucosal administration containing a modified live strain of *Streptococcus equi*. Legal category . Registered trademark. For further information contact your vet. Intervet UK Ltd, Walton Manor, Walton, Milton Keynes MK7 7AJ. www.intervet.co.uk
Item code: 09543

Equilis
strepe


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Strangle strangles

before it spreads

Owner Guide

Equilis
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What is strangles?

Strangles is an infectious disease in horses caused by a bacterium called *Streptococcus equi*. It can affect horses of all ages and types.

Those most at risk are:

- Young horses
- Horses kept in large numbers and that mix with other horses
- Horses that travel a lot e.g. to shows and competitions

In addition to being painful and difficult to treat, strangles can be carried by a horse that appears perfectly healthy (approx 10% of horses that recover become **carriers**). For this reason, it's important to minimise contact with horses of unknown origin.

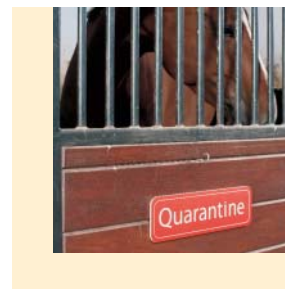
Once inside a stable or yard, strangles can spread quickly through **direct contact** between horses or **indirect contact**, e.g. via shared drinking and feeding equipment or tack.



What should I do if it happens?

Once the first case of strangles on a yard has been diagnosed, all other horses will be at risk.

- The affected horse needs to be **isolated** from the other horses
- The yard should be **closed** to horses from outside
- All healthy animals on the yard should be **monitored** closely to pick up new cases of strangles as early as possible
- People who are in regular contact with horses from outside the yard should **stay away** from the infected yard as much as possible.



Effectively, this could mean that a yard will be closed down. Unfortunately, this situation can last for months.

Is it possible to take preventive measures?

Several measures can be taken to minimise the risk of strangles:

- Try to **avoid contact** with horses of unknown origin
- Make sure your yard doesn't become **overcrowded**
- If horses are introduced, keep them in **quarantine** for a few weeks
- A vaccine to control strangles is now available: **Equilis StrepE**.

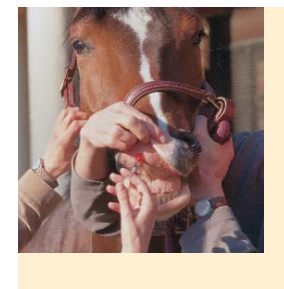
What does vaccination involve?

It can be used in horses from just four months of age and is administered by injection of a very small volume in the upper lip. All horses in a yard should be vaccinated to minimise the risk of strangles taking hold.

After vaccination, a small pustule will develop on the inside of the lip. This is perfectly normal and will disappear within a few days.

Some horses may develop a swelling of the upper lip and muzzle but, generally speaking, this is not painful and will not have an effect on appetite and demeanour. A few horses may resent the bit for a few days. With subsequent vaccinations the amount of swelling will decrease.

Your vet will be able to advise which schedule is right for your horses. In case he or she advises re-vaccinations every six months, a prompt booster will be required if an outbreak occurs more than three months since the last vaccination.



EVERY HORSE:

Two initial vaccinations
four weeks apart

HIGH-RISK HORSES:

Subsequent vaccinations
every three months

OPTION FOR MEDIUM-RISK HORSES:

Subsequent vaccinations
every six months

Equilis StrepE is the first vaccine against strangles available in the UK