



NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTROLS IN PLACE FOLLOWING STRANGLES OUTBREAK IN HAWKE'S BAY

Following a recent Strangles outbreak at a Hawke's Bay training establishment New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) instructed its Veterinary consultant, Andrew Grierson, to inspect and examine the facility and assess potential risks.

Following this examination Andrew Grierson advised on measures and protocols to be put in place to mitigate and control any potential risks.

These controls have been put in place, as recommended, and this should ensure that the risk of further spread will be effectively controlled.

A 28-page booklet on Strangles, commissioned and published by the New Zealand Equine Research Foundation (NZERF), was distributed to all Thoroughbred Licencees (around 2,500) last month. A 'Voluntary Code for Strangles' is included on pages 20-21.

Clinical signs and symptoms of Strangles include fever, heavy nasal discharge and swollen or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck and jaw. Affected animals may also stop eating and have a dull aspect.

Precautions to limit the spread of the illness are necessary and those affected are normally isolated. An isolation period of six weeks is usually necessary to ensure that the disease is not still incubating before ending the isolation.

Any suspected cases must be reported to a vet immediately.

The average length for the course of this disease is 23 days. Both intramuscular and intranasal vaccines are available. Isolation of new horses for four to six weeks, immediate isolation of infected horses, and disinfection of stalls, water buckets, feed troughs, and other equipment will help prevent the spread of strangles. As with any contagious disease, handwashing is a simple and effective tool.

Ends

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