

31 October 2022



ATTENTION: Darwin trainers and staff

SUBJECT: Strangles

As previously reported there have been some positive Strangles (Respiratory Infection caused by **Streptococcus equi ssp. Equi**) cases in the Darwin rural community. These cases had recently been at a property in Katherine, two subsequently returned to the Darwin rural area and showed clinical signs of Strangles as did the other horses in Katherine. This property has been quarantined and Dr Jamin Farebrother is confident that this has prevented further spread.

There are other horses that have returned from the same property in Katherine that have been tested and are awaiting results. Other horses who may have been exposed are being investigated.

As there is a risk of Strangles spreading to the Darwin Turf Club property, Dr Jamin Farebrother has advised that the following preventative measures should apply to the DTC stable complex from today and this has been endorsed by TRNT.

- 1 When a new horse(s) enter(s) or returns to the DTC stable complex, trainers are requested to advise the TRNT stewards. The new horse needs to be isolated from the other horses currently in the stables. i.e. – have a spare box between this horse and others already in the stable.
- 2 Temperatures are to be taken of these new horse(s) twice daily. Shedding and therefore transmission does not usually occur till day 1- 2 after a temperature rise.
- 3 Should a spike in temperature be evident, trainers **MUST** advise TRNT stewards and contact Dr Farebrother (or other stable Veterinarian) and take further instruction. It is then TRNT's direction to have the horse(s) relocated to the Visiting Trainer's Stables where they will quarantine for a period of 21 days, or other period recommended by veterinary advice. Such horses will not be permitted to work, swim or use the walkers during this time.
- 4 Trainers, staff and contractors (farriers, vets, dentists, feed deliverers, etc) must comply with the following protocols:
 - Disinfection of equipment that has been used on horses off course. Streptococcus is readily susceptible to disinfectants such as F10, iodine, chlorhexidine, household bleach.
 - No sharing of lead ropes, feed or water buckets etc especially those that have been used outside the track.
 - People attending the stables should have clean clothes and have showered if they have visited horses at properties outside the Turf Club (especially the Fannie Bay Pony Club). Clean footwear is essential in this circumstance and shoes should be disinfected prior to coming on course.
 - Any intention to spell horses outside of the Turf Club in the immediate future should be discussed with the TRNT Stewards and will involve consultation with a veterinarian.

5 Although the risk of spreading is low, the above precautions **MUST** be adhered to for the good of the entire industry.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact either your veterinarian or TRNT Stewards.

David Hensler

Chairman of Stewards