

Help Us Stamp Out Strangles



Redwings has treated and cleared scores of horses who have gone on to lead full and happy lives.

Redwings' treatment protocol for strangles carriers




- All new (and returning) horses to Redwings are quarantined for a minimum of three weeks, during which horses are screened for strangles.

- Screening involves checking for signs consistent with strangles - empyema, lymphadenopathy or chondroids - through guttural pouch endoscopy. Samples collected are PCR tested for *Strep. equi*.



- Any purulent material is flushed out using copious warm water lavage through the endoscope. Chondroids are removed using a transendoscopic memory wire basket. Appropriate sedation is used to ensure the head is low and the horse is comfortable.

- For horses showing signs consistent with strangles or who test positive on their first sample, the floor of the guttural pouch is checked for any active drainage. If none, horses are left and then retested between seven and 14 days later.



- In the vast majority of cases this will result in a horse that can be cleared of carrier status,* quarantine can be lifted and the horse can be safely (re)introduced to others.

**Note: most carriers become negative with the physical removal of inflammatory purulent material. However, a small proportion of cases can have complications such as continuously draining abscesses or the formation of a biofilm within the guttural pouches. In these cases the individuals would require a more protracted period of intervention including assessment and treatment of any underlying health problems.*