

HRNZ Directive for Strangles Disease Management

(Version 6 – 10/09/26)

Effective Date: 10 September 2026

This Directive relates to all Standardbred breeding, training, trialling and racing activities. This Directive replaces all directives relating to Strangles Disease Management issued by HRNZ previously.

Purpose

Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) has issued this Directive to reduce the risk of Strangles spreading within the Harness Racing industry.

Enforceability

This Directive (and the protocols set out below) applies to all Trainers, Breeders, licensed persons, owners, and all other persons (including all persons associated with the management, care, control, or superintendence of harness racing) to whom the Rules of Harness Racing apply.

The possible consequences of a failure to adhere to this Directive are detailed in Section 3 of this Directive.

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purpose of this Directive:

Horse means any horse including a horse used as a travelling companion horse or a Clerk of Course horse.

Strangles means the equine disease caused by *Streptococcus equi* subsp. *equi*.

1.2 Any other term used in this Directive shall have the meaning given to it in the Rules of Harness Racing unless the context requires otherwise.

2. Obligations

2.1 Notification of Strangles

Notification of Strangles cases must be made by email to the RIB Veterinary Services Manager via: vet@rib.org.nz

If Strangles is confirmed by veterinary diagnosis or laboratory testing in any horse in the care of a Trainer, Breeder, Licensed Person or any other person to whom the Rules apply, the Trainer, Breeder or such other person must advise the RIB Veterinary Services Manager (email: vet@rib.org.nz) immediately upon such confirmed diagnosis.

All further training and horse movements must be halted immediately and the stable premise placed in biosecurity restrictions whilst further testing is conducted and the attending veterinarian and the RIB Veterinary Services Manager (or their delegate) jointly assess and

confirm biosecurity measures that are necessary to minimise the risk of further transmission of Strangles. Subsequent movement of horses must be coordinated under the direction of the RIB Veterinary Services Manager.

The Trainer, Breeder or other person to whom the Rules apply, must comply with all instructions or directions issued by HRNZ or the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) concerning testing, isolation, movement restrictions or other disease control measures.

The biosecurity restrictions may be lifted or eased if the RIB Veterinary Services Manager is satisfied that the affected horses have been isolated and managed with evidenced effective stable biosecurity measures under veterinary guidance. A clearance will be issued by the RIB Veterinary Services Manager with reliance on written advice of the attending veterinarian and, the stable may be permitted to resume training and racing activities with health monitoring and recording as detailed under this Directive.

Full clearance may be issued following negative test results obtained in accordance with the RIB-approved clearance testing protocol and will remain subject to the requirements of this Directive and any additional conditions or biosecurity measures imposed by the RIB Veterinary Services Manager.

2.2 Health monitoring

The Trainer must monitor all horses under their control for signs of illness. A horse must not race, train or trial if it appears to be unwell, with symptoms including but not limited to:

- fever;
- nasal discharge;
- coughing; or
- enlarged lymph nodes.

3. Compliance

Failure to comply with this Directive (and the requirements set out above) constitutes a breach of the Rules of Harness Racing

Providing false or misleading information in any declaration or record required under this Directive may constitute a Serious Racing Offence.

Please direct all enquiries to welfare@hrnz.co.nz