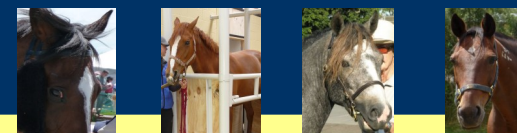




# Totally Equine...

Issue 2, July-August 2009



*"...a recent outbreak around Masterton which is of potential concern..."*

**Totally Equine:**  
VetEquine's  
newsletter

- Up-to-date Veterinary Information
- Veterinary Specials
- For more information look at our website: [www.vetequine.co.nz](http://www.vetequine.co.nz)

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## Strangles... to be continued?

### *The Past...*

It has almost been 12 months since Strangles made its way to the South Island horse population from the initial outbreak in Waikato. Our practice ended up treating several cases of the disease in Canterbury and luckily none in Otago; largely because owners took advice and vaccinated their horses early. If they hadn't I'm sure we would have seen more clinical cases in both areas.

The situation last year couldn't have been more different from the last outbreak in the mid 80's. During that time the reluctance of trainers and studmasters alike to declare they had cases of Strangles in their stock saw the disease spread like wildfire. Keeping word of the outbreak hush-hush denied others the opportunity to vaccinate their horses, resulting in a strangles epidemic.

In addition to that, the superior intra-nasal vaccine which we now have available had yet to be developed, instead we had to use the intra-muscular product.

### *The Present...*

The current Strangles situation can be described as 'low-risk'; however news has come to hand this week about a recent outbreak around Masterton which is of potential concern.

To ensure ongoing protection for your horse(s) and donkeys we feel it is important that last year's vaccination course is followed up in the next few weeks with an annual booster. This will ensure ongoing high antibody levels against the disease.

As we saw last year and currently see at the Wairapa, infections traditionally begin or flare up between now and early Spring; hence the timing of the booster vaccination is important. Also research from the UK (where Strangles outbreaks are common) has shown that 25% of infected horses recover to be chronic carriers of the disease.

If your horse or donkey received its sensitizing and booster intra-nasal vaccination (2 weeks apart) last year, it is important that it receives it's yearly booster within the next few weeks. Failure to do so will cause antibody levels to drop below the sensitizing threshold; meaning that a repeat of the first 2 doses will be necessary to re-establish adequate immunity. Likewise If your horse or donkey received its vaccination last year by way of a course of 3 intra-muscular injections, then it should receive a single booster injection around this time.

Our vet-nurse will try to contact you in the next few weeks to arrange an appointment. Alternatively you can contact us to arrange a time that is suitable.

## **VetEquine Midwinter Special**

***Intra-nasal 'Live Vaccine'***

***5 or more horses  
(on one location)***

***\$62,00\****

***Single horse: \$70,00\****

***\*per vaccination  
Excl. GST & Mileage  
Special ends 30-09-2009***

***Tip: organize your  
friends, neighbours or  
pony club and share the  
mileage***