



Strangles Notification

Industry notice for trainers, breeders, agistment operators, pre-trainers and other persons responsible for Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds.

Early notification helps the RIB work with the attending veterinarian and affected property to assess risk, provide guidance, and manage disease controls in a practical and proportionate way.

Date: 17 July 2026

Notification to the RIB

The Racing Integrity Board (RIB) requires all trainers, breeders, agistment operators, pre-trainers and other persons responsible for Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds to contact the RIB Veterinary Services Manager as soon as possible where Strangles has been confirmed, or where an attending veterinarian considers Strangles to be a likely diagnosis.

Participants must not delay notification while awaiting diagnostic test results where Strangles is being actively investigated. Early notification is one of the most effective tools available to limit disease spread and protect the wider racing industry.

Prompt notification enables the RIB to understand the scope and extent of disease, identify potential risks to other horses and properties, support contact tracing activities, and implement appropriate biosecurity measures before further spread occurs. Early awareness also assists racing authorities to manage horse movements safely and apply any necessary restrictions in a targeted and proportionate manner.

Early notification enables the RIB Veterinary Services Manager to work collaboratively with the attending veterinarian and affected property to assess and understand the circumstances, provide guidance and support, and determine the most appropriate measures to minimise the risk of disease transmission.

Notification does not automatically result in the same restrictions being applied to every property. Each situation is assessed individually, taking into account the level of risk, the extent of exposure, the affected horse population and the biosecurity measures already in place. The

objective is to implement practical and proportionate controls that protect the wider horse population while minimising unnecessary disruption.

Support for affected properties

The RIB, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) and other industry stakeholders are continuing to work collaboratively to support affected properties and minimise unnecessary disruption wherever practicable. This includes exploring initiatives such as assistance with diagnostic testing, veterinary guidance, and practical risk-based arrangements that may enable lower-risk horses on affected properties to continue training or exercising safely while appropriate disease control measures remain in place.

Early notification provides the greatest opportunity for these options to be considered and for individual management plans to be developed that both protect the industry and support affected participants.

Any notification made to the RIB will be treated confidentially. The RIB recognises that a Strangles diagnosis can create uncertainty and operational challenges for affected participants. Information obtained through the notification process is managed carefully and used solely for the purposes of disease management, risk assessment, and protecting the wider racing industry.

Any person who currently has, or has had since **1 May 2026**, a confirmed Strangles case, or a case that was actively investigated as a likely Strangles diagnosis, and has not yet notified the RIB, is required to contact the RIB Veterinary Services Manager without delay.

The cooperation of affected persons and attending veterinarians is essential to protecting the wider racing population and supporting a safe return to normal racing, breeding and training activities as soon as practicable.

Contact	RIB Veterinary Services Manager
Email	vet@rib.org.nz