NYS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & MARKETS
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FAST FACTS ABOUT

STRANGLES

DEFINITION

STRANGLES IS A COMMON, EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS INFECTION OF THE UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT.

CAUSE

THE BACTERIUM STREPTOCOCCUS EQUI IS THE CAUSATIVE AGENT.

CLINICAL SIGNS

THE INCUBATION PERIOD IS 2 -6 DAYS AND WHEN SIGNS BEGIN =LOSS OF APPETITE, FEVER, DEPRESSION; THEN DISCHARGES FROM THE NOSTRILS AND SWELLINGS (ABSCESSES) FORM IN THE LYMPH GLANDS UNDER THE JAW.

DIAGNOSIS

THE CLINICAL SIGNS ARE USED TO BASE THE DIAGNOSIS ON. BACTERIA CULTURED FROM ABSCESS MATERIAL IS DEFINITIVE.

TREATMENT

THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IS CONTROVERSIAL. IF USED = PENICILLIN. AFFECTED HORSES SHOULD NOT BE WORKED. AFFECTED HORSES SHOULD BE ISOLATED. MAINTAIN AN OPEN AIRWAY. FEED SOFT FOODS.

PROGNOSIS

CHANCE OF RECOVERY IS EXCELLENT. AFTER THE ABSCESSED LYMPH NODES RUPTURE IN 2 WEEKS, RECOVERY IS RAPID (UNLESS COMPLICATIONS).

PREVENTION

STRICT QUARANTINE OF ANY NEW ANIMALS ON THE PREMISES. BE CAREFUL WHERE HORSE IS STALLED.

VACCINATION

VACCINATION OF ALL HEALTHY HORSES SHOULD BE DONE ON HIGH-RISK FARMS, IN ENDEMIC HERDS, OR IN FACE OF AN OUTBREAK

-Dr. Lyda W. Denney-