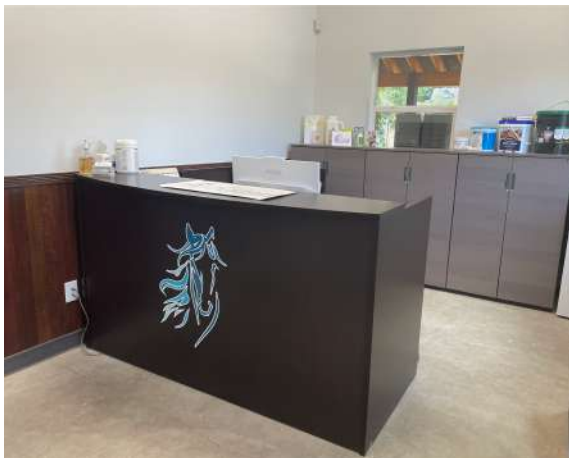




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Now Located at 1765 McTavish Road!



In case you missed it, we have officially moved into our new location at 1765 McTavish Road! We are so excited to be in our new space. As of right now, we are only operating our office out of our new location, but once construction is complete, we will be able to offer a haul-in facility to examine horses and complete day surgeries, advanced dental procedures, lameness exams, pre-purchase exams, and gastroscopies.

We have eliminated the need for contactless pickup for prescriptions, so the next time you are stopping by our office, please feel free to pop-in during business hours!

Staff Updates

Our SEVS team is growing again! We are pleased to welcome two new part-time additions to our team, Meaghan and Hannah. Both Meaghan and Hannah will be valuable assets to the SEVS team of dedicated professionals, offering assistance both on farm and in the office. Meaghan and Hannah have numerous years of experience working with horses. Meaghan comes from a background in small animal veterinary medicine, with aspirations to one day become a veterinarian herself. Hannah has been working in the retail industry for many years and we are excited for her to bring her experience into her role assisting in the office.

Although our SEVS family is growing, we are unfortunately saying goodbye to Gloria as she goes off to continue pursuing her passion for firefighting in a new career position. Gloria has been a huge asset to our team and we are going to miss her dearly! We wish Gloria all the best in her new position firefighting!

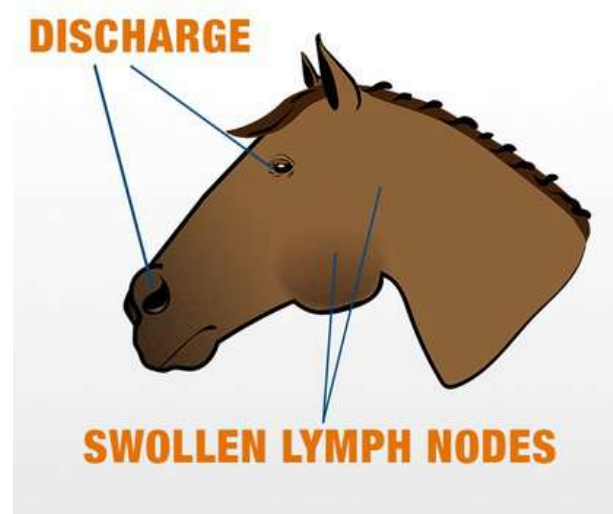


What is Strangles & should I vaccinate against it?

Recently, we have had many clients reach out with questions regarding 'Strangles' infections and vaccination. Strangles is a contagious disease of horses caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus equi equi*. It is one of the oldest described diseases in horses with references found in texts from as long ago as the 13th century! When horses are infected, the bacterium invades the lymph nodes of the head and neck resulting in swelling and abscess development. When horses are clinically affected they typically have a fever, are lethargic, and lose their appetite; however, many horses have less severe signs or none at all. Very rarely, "metastatic" strangles develop causing abscesses in other parts of the body. In general, horses who are exposed to the bacteria develop excellent immunity to the bacteria and are at low risk of reinfection in the future.

For horses who are clinically affected, treatment generally involves supportive care including pain control and wound management of ruptured abscesses. Antibiotics may be avoided except in serious cases as they can decrease the strength of the immunity following infection. Isolation and biosecurity are essential when strangles infection is suspected due to the highly contagious nature of the disease. Any horse with confirmed exposure or clinical signs should be isolated with care to ensure no shared barn equipment, grooming supplies, or tack. Frequent hand washing, dedicated handlers and personal protective equipment will also help prevent the spread of disease. Contaminated equipment or spaces can be disinfected using bleach after washing with a detergent to eliminate organic materials. Luckily, the strangles bacterium is easily killed by sunlight and does not survive well in dry environments though it can survive for up to 6 weeks in water. Occasionally, horses can develop a "carrier state" following infection where the bacteria is shed even from a clinically normal horse. As such, it is recommended that repeated testing be performed in the weeks following resolution of infection to ensure that ongoing shedding is not occurring.

While vaccination for strangles is possible, the vaccines typically have only moderate protection against infection meaning that horses may still be infected. Further, vaccination is not recommended in horses that have had previous exposure to the strangles bacteria as this can predispose them to serious side effects. Due to the widespread nature of the disease and the potential for infection without clinical signs, we recommend bloodwork to assess for previous exposure prior to vaccination of most horses. It is for this reason that vaccination is not recommended during an outbreak scenario. Similar to all vaccines, administration is generally determined based on risk of exposure and immune status. If your horse travels regularly for shows or is housed at a barn with many other horses who travel, vaccination may be recommended.



However, if your horse's environment is well controlled then you may elect to forego vaccination. Prevention by good hygiene, limiting nose-to-nose contact with unknown horses, avoiding shared water sources, minimizing travel, and quarantine of any new horses on the property can help to ensure your horse's health from all infectious diseases. The SEVS team is here to support you in making the best decisions for your horses' care and are happy to discuss a unique preventative health care plan at your annual wellness exam. For more information on good biosecurity protocol, go to <https://swiftsureequine.com/client-education/care-instructions/on-farm-quarantine/>