



July 23, 2018

The State of New York's Agriculture and Racing Authorities have identified a "Strangles" positive horse that spent time at Finger Lakes Racetrack and a local training center during the incubation period. Of note is that the horse was shipped to and from these locations with a "low grade fever of 101 degrees." It appears that the horse did not race or train while at the racetrack so the impacts to other horses and the racing industry should be minimal. Interestingly, this horse's temperature did not rise to 101.5 degrees (one degree above the accepted high normal) which is the usual temperature of concern.

This is a reminder to all horsemen of the importance of taking temperatures as a measure of the health of your animals.

1. It is important to know the normal temperature of your individual animals.
2. It is important to recognize a fever based on an animal's normal status.
3. NSAIDs (Bute, Banamine, Ketoprofen) or other drugs of this class will lower a horse's temperature and mask a fever.
4. Horses with a fever should be evaluated to find the cause and should remain on their home farm until it can be determined that they are not contagious.

There are many infectious and contagious diseases circulating in the horse population. Fever is our best early warning sign and should not be ignored.

Please remain diligent so we can continue to enjoy a profitable racing season.