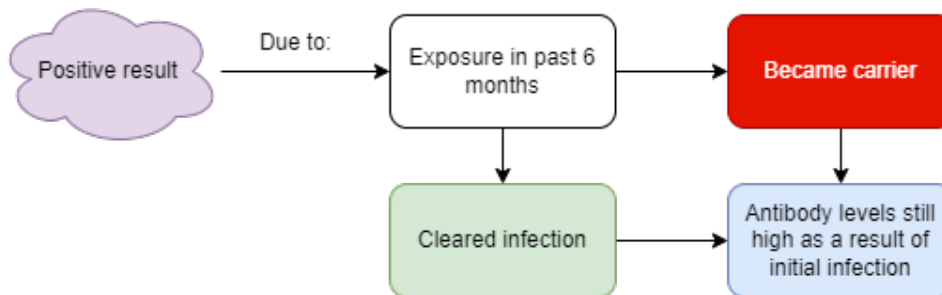


INTERPRETING STRANGLES RESULTS

A guide to understanding the use and limitations of strangles blood tests

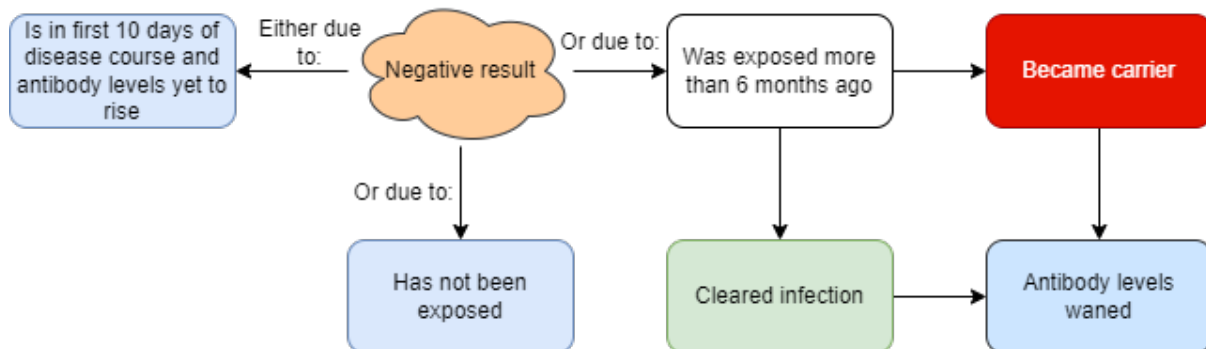
Positive result

If horses have been exposed to the bacteria **recently**, ie from **10 days to a few months**, they probably **WILL test positive** on the antibody blood test. This is regardless of whether they ever exhibited clinical disease, and regardless of whether they successfully cleared the disease or became carriers. **This can lead to a positive result but no risk of transmitting disease.**



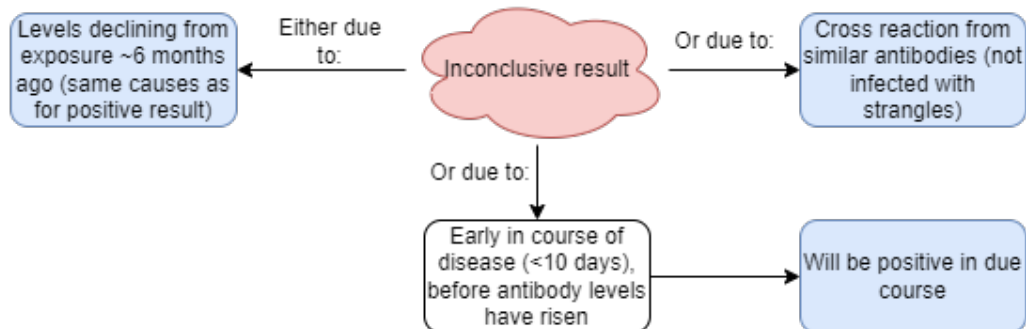
Negative result

If horses have been exposed to the bacteria **more than a few months ago**, they probably **will NOT test positive** on the antibody blood test. This is regardless of whether they became carriers or not. **This can lead to a negative result but with risk of transmitting disease.**



Inconclusive result

Results are 'borderline' or 'inconclusive' either because they are **on the way up** and soon will be positive, or because they are **on the way down** and soon will be negative, or because the individual horse has a slightly higher level of **cross-reactivity** from other antibodies.



Detecting asymptomatic carriers

The only reliable way to detect a long term carrier is to perform a '**guttural pouch wash**', which involves passing an endoscope up the nasal passages into the guttural pouches and taking a sample of fluid, which the laboratory can test for the presence of bacterial DNA (a PCR test).

Regardless of which tests are used, if any, we recommend that for the purpose of biosecurity all premises implement a strict isolation policy for a minimum of 14 days for all new entrants.