MYTH 1: Strangles is a disease of young horses.

Buchanan says the myth of an arbitrary post-infection antibiotic therapy period is well-entrenched. The concept of "7 days of antibiotics" is a fallacy. He points to a review article in the Veterinary Journal that found evidence that bacteria can remain viable in the environment for weeks to years. They are most commonly found in the guttural pouches. When horses are housed in isolation barns, it is common for them to become shedding carriers. Because scoping the guttural pouches is not practical, he says, it is difficult to determine whether or not carriers are present.

Another twist in the strangles plot is an immune response to the bacteria, which can make the disease more chronic. Buchanan says the myth of an arbitrary post-infection antibiotic therapy period is well-entrenched. The concept of "7 days of antibiotics" is a fallacy. He points to a review article in the Veterinary Journal that found evidence that bacteria can remain viable in the environment for weeks to years. They are most commonly found in the guttural pouches. When horses are housed in isolation barns, it is common for them to become shedding carriers. Because scoping the guttural pouches is not practical, he says, it is difficult to determine whether or not carriers are present.

With no immunity or vaccines, horses are vulnerable to recurrent episodes of strangles. Buchanan says the myth of an arbitrary post-infection antibiotic therapy period is well-entrenched. The concept of "7 days of antibiotics" is a fallacy. He points to a review article in the Veterinary Journal that found evidence that bacteria can remain viable in the environment for weeks to years. They are most commonly found in the guttural pouches. When horses are housed in isolation barns, it is common for them to become shedding carriers. Because scoping the guttural pouches is not practical, he says, it is difficult to determine whether or not carriers are present.

Weese calls the previously recommended environmental quarantine period of three months extreme. He says, "It's possible that the bacteria could survive for longer periods under certain conditions." Weese and his colleagues found that as few as 24 hours of sunlight could kill bacteria, but they also found that bacteria could survive in the environment for up to 20 weeks. He says, "The duration of the bacteria's survival in the environment is highly variable and depends on a number of factors, such as environmental conditions and the virulence of the strain."