

External Parasites

Horse and Deer Flies

- Bloodsuckers
 - When do they feed? During the day
 - How do they feed? Bite, injecting anticoagulant, sucking blood
 - Blood can continue to ooze up to 8 hours
- Only female bites
 - Secondary Infections
 - Screwworm (parasite)
 - Diseases
- Symptoms
 - Lowered weight gains, reduced condition
 - Frenzied behavior in horse
- Prevention
 - Difficult – larvae prefer moist areas
 - No current treatment of larvae
- Control
 - Repellents – temporary relief

Stable Flies



- Bloodsuckers
- Both genders bite
 - Secondary Infections
- Breeding Environment
 - Soggy hay/grain/feed, manure, fermenting weed/grass cuttings
 - Adult flies can travel more than 90 miles
- Symptoms
 - Irritation, weakness, blood loss
- Prevention
 - Difficult – dry out breeding areas? To help maintain control and prevention of breeding
- Control
 - Repellants, mists, foggers, insect traps
 - Life cycle is 22-58 days

Other biting flies

- Sand flies aka Biting Midges or No-See-Ums
 - Associated w/wet habitats and large groups
 - Symptoms – irritation, hair loss, skin reactions



- Black flies
 - Can cause death due to blood loss or anaphylactic shock



- Horn flies
 - Breed in cow manure, travel to nearby horses
 - Symptoms – irritation, skin lesions



Non-Biting Flies

- House Fly
 - Breeds in manure
 - Why is the house fly a concern? Vector for disease transfer for both humans and animals
 - Intermediate hosts
 - Contaminated with more than 100 species of pathogenic organisms
 - Symptoms
 - Nervousness, restlessness, reduced food intake
 - Prevention/Control
 - Manure management
 - Moisture control
 - Chemical control/Baits

- Eye Gnats – irritates eyes, feed off liquid there



- Blow Flies – feed on dead tissue



Horse Lice

- Two types
 - Biting
 - Sucking
- Symptoms
 - Anemia, loss of condition, stunting of growth, loss of hair, rubbing, sores/scabs
- Permanent parasite
 - Entire lifecycle on horse
- Biting Lice
 - Feed on the skin and hair
 - Life cycle takes 27-30 days
 - Prevalent on the head, mane, tail base and shoulder
 - Typically winter parasites
 - Treatment
 - Must be treated more than once ...why? Because there will be another infestation quickly – lice have such a short life cycle
- Sucking louse
 - 4-5 weeks life cycle
 - Found anywhere on body

Mites

- Mange Mites → main type
 - Burrow beneath the skin
 - 8 legs, small ovoid body
 - Can reproduce new generation in 2 weeks
 - Symptoms