

MITES/LICE

LICE

What are the symptoms?

Most commonly seen in winter in native breed horses with thick coats. They're often intensely itchy, restless and sometimes have flaky skin. The most commonly encountered louse is *Damalinia* which is a chewing louse that is visible to the naked eye around 5mm in size. They're usually found in dense hair especially around the mane and tail and they look like grains of rice that can move!!! All horses can be affected but it is more common in young, old or the immune suppressed.

Treatment

DEOSECT (Cypermethrin) is the recommended and licensed treatment for lice. It kills adult lice only and therefore should be repeated after 14 days to ensure any emerging eggs are killed.

Deosect should be diluted 1:50 with water and can be applied with a hand sprayer or sponge, taking care to avoid eyes. The recommended volume of solution to be used is outlined below.

Adult horses- 500ml of diluted solution per animal

Ponies- 125ml of diluted solution per animal

If you have cases that are refractory to treatment, then please contact us for advice.



FEATHER MITES- CHORIOPTIC MANGE

What are the symptoms?

Most common in heavily feathered breeds such as cobs and draught horses. Horses are extremely itchy and will often be seen stamping feet, biting and rubbing their legs. Left untreated some horses can get sores on their legs which can become infected

Diagnosis

Often based on clinical signs. The mites aren't visible to the naked eye but can be diagnosed by microscopic examination of skin scrapes.

Treatment

There is currently no licensed treatment. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to eradicate the infestation completely so cases may recur necessitating repeat treatments. We can work with you to come up with the most effective and practical treatment plan for your horse. Some of the available treatment options are listed below which are often used in combination

2 x **Dectomax Injections** 2 weeks apart

Panomec dissolved in water and sponged onto the legs

Frontline sprayed onto legs

Lime plus sulphur shampoo

Clipping the feathers will often help in the worst affected cases.

Empty stable of all bedding and steam clean after each treatment