



Horse Care Info Sheet

Shoo Fly, Shoo!

Keep pests out of your barn!

Summer is here and with it comes sunny days, riding outside and... FLIES!? Yes, unfortunately those pesky flying insects are back. Not only are flying insects irritating, they can also carry disease and cause allergic reactions. We have five helpful tips to keep you and your horse happy and bug-free this summer.

1. The Clean Up Crew

Flies love manure and damp, dirty places, so it's important to keep your barn clean. Remove manure and soiled bedding from stalls and paddocks on a daily basis and scrub water buckets and troughs on a weekly basis. Make sure to remove any areas where water might collect such as old tires and unused buckets.

2. Say, What About a Spray?

Use topical insect repellents (ointments and sprays) on your horses. These repellants are readily available at your local tack store. Unfortunately, these topical repellents often do not last long, depending on how often your horse sweats and is bathed.

3. The Great Cover-up

If the fly can't land on your horse, it can't bite your horse! Fly masks and sheets are great way to protect your horse from flying pests. Belly, neck and leg guards are also available. These are a great alternative for horses that

have reactions to topical repellents. However, fly sheets and masks can become too hot in the summer sun, so it is important to make sure the horse does not become overheated.

4. Give Me Shelter

If possible, avoid turning out when insects are most active. Most flies are active during the day, so stalling your horse during the day and turning out at night can reduce irritation from flies. Mosquitoes are most active at night, and midges are most active at dusk and dawn.

5. Blow Them Away

A light breeze in the barn can keep the flies at bay during the day. Fans can be used as a way to increase airflow and discourage flies. Make sure any electrical cords are out of reach of barn animals!

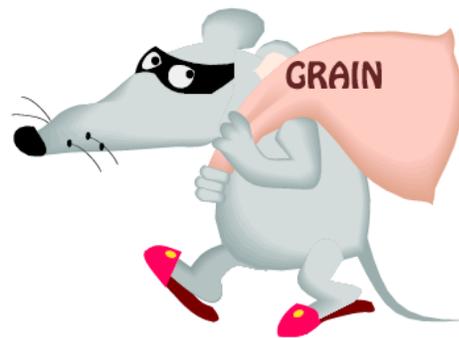
A fly sheet provides protection from bugs



Photo: Kathleen Kocmarek

Watch Out!

Flying insects are not the only pest in the barn. Rodents and small mammals – like raccoons – can also spread disease. Make sure all grain and food products are secured to discourage them from making a home in your barn.



Equine Guelph would like to extend thanks to the Ontario Veterinary College veterinarians for input and content review of this fact sheet.

To learn more about managing these issues, register for Equine Guelph's [Management of the Equine Environment](#) and [Equine Health & Disease Prevention](#) online courses.