

WINTER SKIN HEALTH GUIDE

Mud Fever, Rain Scald & Winter Skin Problems

IT'S NOT THE MUD. IT'S THE MOISTURE

One of the biggest misconceptions we hear is that mud fever is caused by “bad mud”. In reality, mud itself is rarely the problem. The real issue is prolonged moisture and skin irritation, which creates the perfect environment for bacteria to multiply and cause skin disease.

Both mud fever and rain scald become more common during winter because wet paddocks, muddy gateways, damp rugs and persistent moisture weaken the skin's natural protective barrier.

MUD FEVER

Typically affects:

- Pasterns
- Heels
- Lower limbs

Common signs:

- Scabs and crusting
- Swelling
- Hair loss
- Sensitivity
- Painful



RAIN SCALD

Typically affects:

- Back
- Topline
- Rump
- Neck

Common signs:

- Crusty scabs
- Tufts of hair lifting
- Hair loss
- Sensitive skin
- Maybe painful

WINTER SKIN HEALTH GUIDE

Mud Fever, Rain Scald & Winter Skin Problems

DON'T JUST LOOK. FEEL.

Run your hands over your horse regularly and check for:

- Small bumps
- Early scabs
- Heat
- Swelling
- Sensitivity

Early detection often means simpler treatment and a quicker recovery.



WINTER SKIN HEALTH CHECKLIST

CHECK YOUR HORSE REGULARLY

Look for scabs, swelling, hair loss and sensitivity.

CHECK UNDERNEATH RUGS

Make sure your horse isn't sweating and rugs aren't damp underneath.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT RUG

A horse that is warm and dry is the goal, not warm and damp.

AVOID EXCESSIVE WASHING

Repeated washing can damage the skin's natural protective barrier.

ADDRESS SMALL PROBLEMS EARLY

Don't wait until mild skin irritation becomes severe.

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL YOUR VET?

Seek veterinary advice if your horse develops:

- Significant swelling
- Pain when touched
- Lameness
- Worsening scabs
- Extensive skin involvement
- Problems not responding to treatment

Need Help?

If you're concerned about mud fever, rain scald or any other winter skin problem, we're here to help.

