



MANDARIN EQUINE VETERINARY SOLUTIONS

Office: (904) 292-4744

Text: (888) 557-9054

Fax: (904) 292-0880

E-mail: MandarinEquine@yahoo.com

Web: MandarinEquine.com

Cutaneous Habronemiasis (Summer Sores)

THE LIFE CYCLE – How they occur:

- Summer sores occur from *aberrant parasitism* when fly larvae penetrate damaged skin and incite a hypersensitivity (“allergic”) reaction.
- The adult parasite lives in the horse’s stomach. The parasitic larvae are passed into the manure of the horse. The infective larvae are picked up by flies and deposited into open or damaged tissue (i.e. open wounds).

CLINICAL SIGNS:

- Seasonal - first appearing in the spring and lasting into the winter.
- Most common on the distal extremities (lower limbs), corners of the eye, and male genitalia.
- The wounds consist of large areas of pink to red, itchy granulation tissue containing small, gritty, yellow nodules.
- Once horses develop the disease, recurrence is common year after year.

TREATMENT:

- **Fly Control**
 - The most important goal to remember in the treatment of summer sores is to **prevent flies from contacting the wound**.
 - Keep the wound **covered at all times** with one of the following options:
 - Silver Sox (www.soxforhorses.com), Fly boots, Cotton bandage with vet wrap and elastikon
 - Implementing a strict fly control program at your barn is key to minimizing exposure.
 - Fecal egg counts should be performed on all horses every 6 months. Based on these results, a unique deworming protocol can be developed for the facility.
- **Topical Treatment** – to be applied daily/at each bandage change
 - DermaCure (i.e. “the green stuff”)
 - Florida Sore Cream
 - Other topical products include mixtures of Moxidectin, DMSO, ketoconazole, and dexamethasone.
- **Systemic Treatment**
 - In severe cases, systemic steroid treatment (i.e. prednisolone) may need to be implemented.
- **Debridement/Surgical Treatment**
 - In severe cases, surgical debridement of protrusive tissue is necessary in order to eliminate larvae and debulk the wound. This can be performed by your veterinarian.
 - To reduce inflammation, steroids can be injected directly into the wound by your veterinarian.
- **Deworming Protocol**
 - The parasite responsible for summer sores has developed strong resistance to most deworming products, including Ivermectin.
 - Deworm with *Moxidectin* (Quest or Quest Plus), once at the time of diagnosis and then again 10-14 days later.