

Heritage Downs

...The Natural Choice

Managing Sweet Itch (Qld Itch)

Sweet itch or Qld itch is one of the most distressing conditions that affect horses and dogs in sub tropical and tropical climates. It can be very frustrating, especially when you have two or more horses sharing a paddock and only some may have Sweet itch, while others are not affected. With constant rubbing and scratching on everything from fence posts, trees or anything within reach.

This condition is due to hypersensitivity to insect bites, causing extreme itching. It is usually worse during the humid summer months, but may affect some horses or dogs all year long. Itching is usually intense and can cause the animal to scratch constantly causing mild to severe hair loss and open sores. The skin eventually may become thickened and wrinkled.



Recommended Treatment

Use **Heritage Downs Sulphate-Free Shampoo** to thoroughly clean the coat of your animal. By using a rubber currie comb, you are helping to lift dirt and dead skin, making sure that the ingredients are absorbed into the coat right through to the skin. Thoroughly rinse off the shampoo so that the water is clear from any dirt, then squeegee off excess water.

Now add **Heritage Downs Sulphate-Free Conditioner**, while the coat is still wet, work in the conditioner, preferably with a rubber currie comb. This is where you have to take care particularly if your horse has infected sores, you don't want to hurt your animal. This will soften the scabs and scale on the sores. It is important to remove these as they carry bacteria and germs that keep the sores from healing and the hair follicles from regenerating quickly.

Use **Heritage Downs Intensive Treatment** on severe and persistent cases of Sweet Itch (QLD Itch), a product developed especially for animals suffering with extreme skin conditions.

Apply twice a week, use sparingly, on effected areas and massage into the skin. The massaging helps the blood circulation and promotes hair re-growth. Noticeable results will be seen in one week.

After application, do not leave your animal in the sun uncovered as oils could burn. We recommend covering with a combo rug or stabling your animal.

Ongoing Management

Biting flies, mosquitoes and midges can quickly undo all your efforts so it is important that you manage this as well, we recommend **Heritage Downs Massage Oil**, specially formulated with our own blend of protein enriched Soya Bean Oil and the purest essential oils with vitamin E to nourish hair follicles and promote hair re-growth, is environmentally friendly and non-toxic. Pour a small amount of Massage Oil onto a soft brush and lightly coat the body, mane and tail. This will protect your four legged friend from annoying flies and biting insects, also leaving a beautiful show shine.

This product has anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral properties making it ideal for cleaning the sheath of your stallions and geldings and teats on your mares.

After application, do not leave your animal in the sun uncovered as oils could burn. We recommend covering with a combo rug or stabling your animal.

With regular use of the **Heritage Downs range of Natural Animal Care products**, you will continue to see an improvement in your horse's condition within two to three weeks. It is then that you can relax a little and start a maintenance program by using a bug spray between normal weekly washes.

Lastly, not all itching or rubbing in horses is caused by "Sweet Itch". Itching in horses can be caused by many things, including a variety of contact allergies and even a form of worm infestation.

If you are unsure whether your horse has "Queensland Itch" or some other skin condition, consult with your veterinarian for full advice.

From This (January 2006)



To This (May 2006)



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