

Heritage Downs

...The Natural Choice

Mud Fever/Greasy Heel

Mud Fever or greasy heel affects the lower limbs of horses and may cause pain and swelling. It appears as patches of scurf beneath hair that looks matted. Under the scurf the skin will be red and oozing. These discharges are often 'greasy' or sticky to touch. Left untreated the skin can become deeply cracked, and infected.

WHAT CAUSES IT?

Mud fever/greasy heel is caused by a bacterium, that is found on many species of animals and lives in the soil. This bacterium is found in the crusty scabs, and can be transferred to your brushes, tack and rugs. These organisms thrive in warm, moist conditions. It is often referred to as 'Mud Fever' where horses develop the condition when standing in muddy yards and paddocks during rainy weather.

TREATMENT OF GREASY HEEL:

Most early or mild cases can be successfully treated by horse trainers or owners. For best results, the greasy hair and skin area must be thoroughly cleaned before applying Greasy Heel Cream.

Soak and wash affected area using an antiseptic shampoo, **Heritage Downs Sulphate-Free Shampoo** is ideal as it is not only Antiseptic it is also Anti-Bacterial and Anti-Viral and much more, to help kill bacteria and remove infected scabs. Leave 10 minutes before rinsing. Rinse off with clean water and pat dry.

To help make removing the scabs less painful, cover scabs with **Heritage Downs Greasy Heel Cream** and use plastic cling film to wrap affected area and wait 15 minutes. After this time the scabs should be soft enough to remove.

DO NOT THROW SCABS ON THE GROUND, AS THIS WILL REINFECTION THE SOIL!

Smear lesions with **Heritage Downs Greasy Heel Cream** and repeat the process of washing, rinsing & applying cream for 3-4 days, then continue twice weekly to ensure it remains under control.

Keep the horse in a clean dry area to prevent recurrence.

Any brushes or equipment used on a horse with greasy heel should be sterilized before use on another horse. It may be easier to keep a separate set of brushes for each horse to prevent cross contamination.

Remember that this condition is highly infectious and if your horse is around other horses that are not yours, and everybody doesn't do the right thing, your horse could end up reinfected.

This is usually the problem when the condition is persistent for long periods of time. Protecting your horse from rain and flies will be of great benefit to the recovery process. We recommend **Heritage Downs Bug Spray** for individual horse treatment or if the horses are stabled **Heritage Downs Stable Spray** is ideal as a surface spray as it contains anti-bacterial and anti-septic properties with a residual effect protecting your stables longer against insects and viruses, whilst leaving a pleasant woody fragrance.

If the condition is acute, i.e., covers a large area, badly cracked, or legs swollen, antibiotics may be needed. If unsure about your horse's condition, call your vet.

For further information or nearest stockist

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