

Afflictions of the Skin

Posted on [July 16, 2010](#) by [Graham](#)

Well it's getting to that time of year again when those things that crawl, burrow, bite, fly and generally cause havoc are re-appearing to make our woolly/hairy four legged friends (and hence our own) lives misery.

Any of us with children will be quick to recognise **lice eggs (nits)** stuck to the hair. They are easiest to see in horses around the base of the mane and tail. In cattle, adult lice can often be seen round the muzzle.

Another creepy crawly we have encountered recently is **ticks**. More traditionally a problem further north, they are not fussy about their hosts and can cause weeping sores on the head and legs of all species but more commonly horses. Because part of their lifecycle is spent on the ground, treating animals does not eradicate them.

So what about things that fly? **Bot flies** in horses are always a nuisance but probably the most obscene of all skin conditions as things warm up is **flystrike**. If you have sheep, think about prevention now.

Allergic reactions are not uncommon in horses with **insect bites**, sometimes resulting in quite extreme skin reactions.

Another problem springs from a creepy critter we can't even see. **Bacteria** can cause a range of nasty skin infections even abscesses if getting into deeper tissues.

Mud fever or greasy heel in horses often has owners tearing their hair out and reeling in confusion at the multitude of treatments available. This is because all cases are a slightly different combination of bacteria, water, sunlight and individual susceptibility.

We are [happy to discuss](#) any of these conditions and advise what we think is best.