

Support of Summer Skin

Horses, just like humans, are prone to allergies. Some of these allergies may affect the animal all year round, while others have a definite seasonality to them. One we commonly see over summer is an allergic reactions to biting midges, commonly known as Sweet Itch. Classically the symptoms include itching around the head, mane and tail where the midge bites (increasingly also seen on the belly). This itching leads to a thickening of the skin, hair loss and, in some cases, inflammation and bleeding in the area. Sweet Itch is a distressing condition as once the horse is locked into the “itch/ scratch” cycle it can be very difficult to stop it.

The most obvious approach is to remove the horse from the cause where possible. Don't graze sweet itch sufferers near water, as this is a favourite place for midges to congregate. Where possible sufferers should be stabled during the times of day that the midge is most active, that is, dusk and dawn. However it is not always practically possible to remove the trigger completely, and this is where nutritional support can play a vital role.

With a problem as frustrating and persistent as Sweet Itch, it's often necessary to support the horses natural defences using nutritional supplements and topical applications. Look for the brand new approach from NAF – D-Itch Skin Spray – a natural formula combining unique herbal extracts with powerful antioxidant properties to support and comfort the reddened areas of hot, irritated skin. Contains MSM, which is readily absorbed into grazed, broken skin to aid the natural healing process. D-Itch Skin Spray is ideal both for those known to be sensitive to the midges, and for those generally itchy horses whose issue may not be insect related. The spray application makes it far cleaner to use than traditional heavy based gels and ointments, whilst its light formula allows the skins to breathe and heal as nature intended.



Please remember also the importance of an effective insect repellent. Globally the best known, and most well proven, insect repellent is DEET, therefore it's recommended that your horses insect repellent contains this, and is re-applied regularly. DEET is available on the equine market as NAF OFF Deet, in spray or gel formats to suit you and your horse.

Tackling your horse's seasonal scratching using this combined approach will ensure that you both enjoy a stress-free summer – however many midges are around!

Recommended NAF Products

D-Itch Powder

D-Itch Skin Spray

NAF OFF Deet Spray and Gel

Your Story – NAF D-Itch Skin Spray

Logan, a 16.1hh Irish Draught Cross owned by Caroline Wallace.

Before:

Every year Logan suffers from severe sweet itch. As a result of Logan's constant itching, his

forelock is just a fluffy tuft for most of the year. He also rubs his tail, which can be quite frustrating when entering competitions as I want him to look his best. Caroline started using the D-Itch Skin Spray in mid summer last year. She applied the spray to Logan's forelock, mane and tail.

After:

Says Caroline 'I quickly found the spray to be very effective and noticed that Logan didn't rub as much as he usually did. The hair loss that had already taken place prior to using the spray, especially the top of his mane and his forelock was able to grow back much quicker than before.

He hardly rubbed his tail at all which was quite was quite amazing; he is stabled at night so plenty of opportunity for a good rub on a wall! I would definitely recommend this product to help sweet itch sufferers.

We would love to hear your feedback on D-Itch Skin Spray or any NAF product. Please send Your Story to info@naf-uk.com

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For further information and advice please call the NAF Freephone Advice Line 0800 373106 or e-mail info@naf-uk.com