



**Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital**  
**www.clearylakevets.com**  
**952-435-VETS (8387)**

Equine Edition

November 2009

**Fighting Crime One Nut At A Time!**

November and December  
Castration Special

10% off castration for 1 colt,  
15% off castration for 2 or more!

Drop your colt off in the morning;  
pick up your gelding in the  
afternoon! No fee for daylong  
hospital stay.  
Please call for details.

**CSI = CRIME SKIN INVESTIGATION**

Is there a fungus among us or is Rainrot lurking nearby? See us for criminal crud investigation. With the wet, miserable October, skin problems are rampant in our furry equine friends right now. The primary culprits in Minnesota in the wet weather are “ringworm”, “Rainrot” and “scratches”.

Ringworm, though it sounds like a parasite, is actually a fungus. It is contagious to people, dogs, cats and other animals. Several fungi can cause it, but the most common in horses is *trichophyton equinum*. What does ringworm look like? Ringworm can appear differently in different horses but very frequently forms distinct round scabs that peel off leaving a hairless area underneath. This fall we even saw strange round circles on the muzzle that tested positive for ringworm. It is usually not painful but can be itchy. Ringworm can be passed from horse to horse directly or through brushes, tack, people, barn cats, dogs and shared stalls or paddocks. Ringworm can be treated systemically with a powdered medication (Griseofulvin) that is put on the grain. Ringworm can also be treated topically with several different antifungal or antiseptic agents such as fungicide or MTG.

Rainrot and scratches on the other hand, are both most often caused by a bacteria “*Dermatophilus congoensis*”. Rainrot and scratches are not contagious to people or other animals, but are caused by a bacteria that lives in the soil and takes over skin that is exposed to prolonged wet conditions. Rainrot occurs along the top of the back and the sides of horses and appears as either numerous small firm white scabs, or larger thick scabs that when peeled off are very moist and goopy underneath. “Scratches” refers to a dermatitis (skin infection) of the lower legs of horses and occurs most commonly on white legs with pink skin. It will often have numerous scabs that are difficult to remove and may bleed when you attempt to clean the area. Both these conditions can be quite painful. Both can be treated systemically with an antibiotic (SZM tablets or Tucoprim) that goes on the feed. Penicillin is effective as well, but not recommended due to the danger of anaphylactic reactions in horses (years ago one of our clients opted to treat Rainrot with injectable penicillin and that horse died instantly from a penicillin reaction). Rainrot and scratches can also be treated with a variety of topicals such as our scratches medication (a combination of antibiotic, zinc oxide and steroid), gentocin spray, iodine shampoo and many other commercial or homemade remedies.

All three of these conditions heal faster if the horse can be kept clean and dry. We can identify which crud your horse has by microscopically examining the scabs and setting up a fungal culture. Bring us your freshest, goopiest scabs for “criminal crud” identification or schedule an appointment for us to personally investigate your horse’s crud and we can collect the evidence for you! For the month of November we are running a criminal crud ID special for only \$68.00.

-Kathy Ott, DVM

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Have him stop by and  
take a load off.  
Semen freezing – 10% off  
collection & 1 free dose  
per collection.

Frozen Semen Storage  
\$25.00 off your first quarter.