

Tail Rubbing

Tail rubbing is a common problem seen in many horses both seasonally & year-round. There are many different causes for tail rubbing and treatments can vary widely. It is important to schedule routine wellness visits with your veterinarian at least once a year to ensure your horse is up-to-date with preventative care.



Causes:

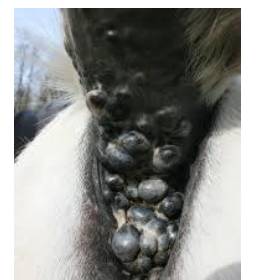
- GI Parasites
- Pinworms (**Note: These worms do not typically show up on routine fecal float examination*)
- Insect Bite Hypersensitivity (*Midges, Biting Flies*)
- Ticks
- Environmental Allergies
- Dry Skin
- Lice/Mites
- Dirty Udder / Sheath
- Behavioral
- Pain/Discomfort
- Injury / Trauma
- Perianal Tumors
- Mild Colic / Fecal Impaction
- Late Term Pregnancy (fetal pressure)



Recommendations:

1. **Fecal Egg Count** - This is a simple test to rule out most common GI parasites.
2. **Tick Preventative** - Ensure your horse is on an appropriate tick preventative, such as Permethrin CDS or Equispot, especially during the spring, summer, and fall months.
3. **Physical Examination** - This can help distinguish between environmental sensitivities or a potentially more serious issue.

*Treatment will depend on the cause, which is why it is important to have a thorough physical examination performed by your veterinarian. Simple topical salves or sprays may be sufficient for dry skin or insect bite sensitivity, but a sedated sheath clean may be the better suited for your horse's needs. Your vet can give you customized recommendations to help solve your horse's tail rubbing problem.



Perianal Melanomas