Sweet Itch Awareness

Has your horse or pony got a summer skin allergy? Have you had to curtail your equine activities over the summer due to persistent itching? If the answer is yes, then you’re not alone. Recent research carried out by Elanco Companion Animal Health, distributor of Cavalesse®, showed over half (55%) of owners of horses with sweet itch were concerned that their horse will suffer and nearly half become stressed about the way their horse is affected (47%). Indeed, nearly a third of those questioned have had their activities with their horse affected, including being unable to ride their horse, due to welfare, aesthetic and behavioural issues, such as head shaking, rubbing, unpredictability and aggression.

Elanco Companion Animal Health will be joining forces with the British Horse Society, The Blue Cross, The Horse Trust, Redwings Horse Sanctuary and World Horse Welfare to raise awareness of summer skin conditions, such as sweet itch. The campaign will highlight the preventative measures that should be carried out to help alleviate sweet itch and the importance of management of the condition at the start of the midge season in the spring.

The management and prevention of sweet itch should include:

- Moving the horse away from standing water and boggy land
- Stabling at dawn and dusk and the use of fly repellents
- The most effective fly protection for horses out at grass are light rugs and hoods which can cover all the areas of the horse susceptible to bites.

Cavalesse® and Cavalesse® Topical are easy-to-administer skin care products containing nicotinamide, which help to maintain healthy skin in horses prone to summer skin allergies. Cavalesse® and Cavalesse® Topical are available from us.

For further information, see the Parkside web site or have a chat to one of the Equine vets.