

Hereditary Equine Regional Dermal Asthenia (HERDA)



What is hereditary equine regional dermal asthenia?

- Inherited skin disease in Quarter Horses and related breeds
- Causes skin lesions on the back, making the horse unsuitable for riding
- Severity of clinical signs can vary and often appear when the horse is being broke to ride
- A DNA test is available to confirm diagnosis of affected animals and identify carriers.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Breeders can prevent HERDA by performing DNA testing on potential sires and dams and avoiding carrier matings.
- Offspring of two HERDA carriers have a 25% chance of being affected. Breeding a normal horse to a carrier will not result in an affected foal but will produce a HERDA carrier foal 50% of the time.

Signs

Stretchy skin
Severe lesions on back
Scarring
Seromas
Hematomas
Corneal ulcers

Cause

Inherited (autosomal recessive)
Causative mutation identified
Affected horses have 2 copies of the mutation

Treatment

- None
- Specialized management in some cases for affected horses that become pasture pets

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393. For genetic testing, contact the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at vgl.ucdavis.edu.*



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