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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stretchy skin</td>
<td>Inherited (autosomal recessive)</td>
<td>• None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe lesions on back</td>
<td>Causative mutation identified</td>
<td>• Specialized management in some cases for affected horses that become pasture pets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarring</td>
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<td>Seromas</td>
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<td>Hematomas</td>
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<td>Corneal ulcers</td>
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</tbody>
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Signs of HERDA:
• Stretchy skin
• Severe lesions on the back
• Scarring
• Seromas
• Hematomas
• Corneal ulcers

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

*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.