

Pigeon Fever



What is pigeon fever?

- Bacterial infection
- Causes large abscesses to form on the chest or under the belly
- Horses are infected when flies deposit the bacteria on broken skin or the bacteria gains access to the body through small scrapes or wounds.
- Occurs year-round, with seasonal peaks in summer through early winter
- Fly control is key to prevention and control

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Fly control using feed-through products and/or fly repellents, fly sheets, sprays, ointments
- Regular manure management and sanitation
- Quarantine new horses before introducing into resident population
- Isolate infected horses, wash/sanitize hands, use gloves and protective outerwear, clean and disinfect contaminated areas

Signs

External abscesses
Internal abscesses
Ulcerative lymphangitis
Fever
Lameness
Weight loss
Lethargy

Transmission

Bacteria *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*
transmitted by flies and
through open wounds

Treatment

- Hot compresses
- Poultices
- Lancing & draining
- NSAIDs
- Antibiotics in some cases

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*



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