

Protecting your horses from mosquito bites

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Mosquitoes can carry diseases that can make people, horses and other animals sick. Protect yourself and your horse from mosquito bites, to help prevent several viruses including Japanese encephalitis, West Nile virus (Kunjin strain), Murray Valley encephalitis and Ross River fever.

Horse owners are encouraged to reduce the risk of horses being exposed to mosquitoes, after the confirmation of Japanese encephalitis in pigs Victoria in 2022.

Stabling horses between dusk and dawn could help, as the mosquito most likely to carry diseases of concern is a night-time feeder that stays outdoors.

In addition to stabling horses overnight there are other techniques to prevent mosquito bites. They include:

- installing appropriate physical barriers at entry and exit points, e.g. a double door entry-exit system
- turning off lights inside stables during the night
- using fluorescent lights in stables that do not attract mosquitoes
- placing incandescent bulbs around the stable perimeter to attract mosquitoes away from horses
- screening building openings e.g. windows with shade cloth mesh that have been treated with an insecticide registered for the control of mosquitoes e.g. cypermethrin. Reapply product weekly by applying the chemical to screens as per the instructions contained on the chemical label.
- fogging, fans and automatic overhead misting systems to eliminate mosquitoes within stables
- topical treatment of horses using registered vector repellents such as DEET
- spraying of stable walls with residual insecticides such as, deltamethrin or permethrin

- physical barriers - rugging and hooding horses in lightweight permethrin treated material (if climatically appropriate)
- eliminating mosquito breeding sites on the premises such as dripping or leaking taps and water troughs, as well as discarding old tyres which are a common breeding ground
- treating all interiors of horse vehicles with an aerosol insecticide to prevent spread of potential vectors.

For more information on mosquito borne diseases and livestock in Victoria, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au

For more information about how to protect your friends and family from mosquito bites, visit:

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-bite>

ACCESSIBILITY

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