

Rain Scald

Rain scald is a very common skin condition caused by *Dermatophilus congolensis*, which causes scabs along the neck, back and face area. Removal of these hair matts is painful and often resented, and the hair come away in clumps, leaving a rosy-red area of skin. Skin wetting from rain or sweating, combined with a heavy winter coat and poor hygiene create an ideal environment for the bacteria to grow on the skin surface. If one horse is infected, others in the herd may become infected too. Treatment of rain scald involves keeping the skin dry after a careful warm water antibacterial wash (iodine or chlorhexidine). It is essential that the horse is not over rugged, as sweating will simply encourage the infection.

