

Summer is here!

Hot horses and fly issues

By: April Battles

Heat! As you all know it is getting really warm and our horses are sweating more, even in the pasture when not working. Horses need electrolytes just like people do; a salt block is not enough. Horses do not have rough tongues like a cow does and cannot efficiently lick a block enough to get what they need, if you see teeth marks on your salt lick then your horse is severely deficient. They should be offered a loose natural salt like sea salt and they do need iodine in their salt as well, just like people do. You can hang a bucket with the loose salt or pour freely on top of the salt lick. I also recommend for any of you doing competitive sports or long trail rides to pre electrolyte your horse the day before the ride or event, it can be added to a wet grain mixture so that they have plenty of time to drink water and hydrate before it is needed. Local feed stores or Jeffers equine on line carry powdered electrolytes, I prefer the organic liquid one that Dynamite Company puts out specifically for Equines, horses love it and ask for more.

Flies! Nasty biting pests! Here are two easy things to do to cut down on your fly population.

1) You can get swimming pool Diatomaceous earth in the 10lb boxes at hardware and pool supply stores. Put a pound or 2 in a large garbage bag, best not to be breathing in the dust, poke a few tiny holes in the bottom-now walk around where there is fresh manure and lightly sprinkle on top, do not over do this. Can also sprinkle over areas where manure is piled up. This works well on ant colonies too. Anything that lands on it or walks thru it will die within hours, it gets on them and cuts open the exo skeleton and the pest dehydrates and expires. If you are worried about your horse or dog inhaling the product then lightly tap it in with your shoe. It is a safe product for humans-as it is in our swimming pools. You can feed a human grade DE internally to horses as an organic feed thru daily dewormer at about 1 tsp a day.

2) Raw organic apple cider vinegar in grain at 1/4 cup a day or in water trough (keeps mosquito larva down as well) also helps keep down fly population during the summer. If you Google what ACV does in people it helps decrease inflammation so this is also good for athletic performance horses and well as senior horses. The added benefit is it is also know to help dissolve Entrolyths (stones) that horses can get.

Any questions can contact me

April@holistichorseworks.com

April Battles has just moved to this area and will be doing a free clinic for our group. She is also looking to meet new riding friends. You can view her website at www.HolisticHorseworks.com