

## **Recommendations for the Management of Culicoides Hypersensitivity ( Sweet Itch)**

1. Keep horse inside stall at dusk & dawn, as these are peak feeding times for the fly.
2. Enclose all open sides of the stall with extremely fine mesh screens (smaller than mosquito netting as the Culicoides can get through mosquito net).
3. 2% Permethrin spray (FlyPel), applied to affected areas twice daily , especially at dusk and dawn.
4. Stall fans: We recommend that 1-2 box fans be placed to blow into the stall because these flies are very weak fliers.
5. Move to dry area if possible.
6. Topical steroid is preferred, such as Genesis<sup>R</sup> spray (0.015% triamcinolone), twice daily for 7 days, then once daily for 7 days, then every other day for 7 days. Oral/injectable steroids only if absolutely necessary due to the risk of laminitis.
7. Remove from breeding program as this is genetically inherited.
8. Hyposensitization for insect allergies alone is generally considered ineffective, avoidance is the best measure. If the patient also has atopic dermatitis then allergy injections should be more effective.
9. Antihistamine - conflicting reports as to the efficacy, can give Tri-Hist at 400 mg BID.
10. Benzoyl peroxide, Chlorhexidine, or other antimicrobial based shampoo, +/- oral antimicrobials based on the presence of secondary infection.
11. Removing standing water and manure: this is very important because this is where the fly lays its eggs.