



## FLYCAM FACT SHEET NUMBER 12

### APPLYING BRUTE INSECTICIDE FOR HORSES TO CONTROL NUSANCE FLIES

- 1) The most common fly species affecting horses are the House fly (*Musca domestica*), Stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*), Buffalo fly (*Haematobia irritans exigua*), Bush Fly (*Musca vetustissima*) and Biting Midges, sometimes called Sandflies (*Culicoides brevitarsis*) which are the causal agents of Queensland Itch.
- 2) House flies and Bush flies are mostly attracted to mucous discharges, eye suppuration or open lesions and in large numbers can cause severe annoyance and discomfort to the horse. Stable flies are blood sucking flies that breed in decomposing straw and manure and have mouthparts that are adapted to piercing the skin, which can be extremely painful and irritating to the horse. Infestations of Stable flies are generally located on the front legs and chest and are characterised by the horse stamping its legs. Buffalo fly from cattle can be attracted to darker coated horses and cause severe discomfort due to the fly taking regular blood meals. These flies usually locate themselves over the ribs and under belly. Fly worry often causes a delay in the healing of wounds.
- 3) Queensland Itch is a dermatitis caused by hypersensitivity to the bites of the Biting midge or Sandfly *Culicoides brevitarsis*. Severe irritation results in the animal rubbing and causing lesions, where the hair is lost with resultant aggravated dermatitis and suppurating pustules. The most common sites for Queensland Itch tend to be the mane, withers, and over the rump and tail head. The midges breed in animal manure and feed on horses generally in the early morning and late afternoon.
- 4) BRUTE Insecticide for Horses has been developed in the USA and Australia and is a ready to use odourless product containing the pyrethroid insecticide, permethrin in a non-irritating oil based formulation. BRUTE is specifically formulated to be applied with a specially designed Wipe-On Applicator Mitt.
- 5) BRUTE when applied at regular intervals has high efficacy against susceptible Buffalo fly, House fly, Stable fly and Biting midges or Sand Flies, the causal agents of Queensland Itch.
- 6) For the first application of BRUTE with a new Wipe-on Applicator Mitt, charge the mitt with twice the dosage (60 ml for large horses) and work the product into the absorbent material of the mitt by movement of the hand inside the Mitt.

- 7) The preferred method of treatment is to apply as a whole body wipe, paying special attention to where pests congregate. The following steps act as an easy guide for applying BRUTE:
- a) After the initial charge, apply half the required dosage (15ml for a large horse) to one side of the horse.
  - b) Apply the first sweep of the mitt along the mane, down the middle of the back to the tailhead.
  - c) Run the mitt down the front leg (front and back) several times.
  - d) Use the mitt in long sweeping motions over the rest of the body (ribs, withers, shoulder, rump, face and ears)
  - e) Apply the second half dosage to the other side of the animal using the same procedure as outlined above.
  - f) Return the mitt and bottle to the specially designed drawstring stowage bag.
  - g) Wash hands and protective glove.
- 8) BRUTE Insecticide for Horses is a rain resistant formulation but in management situations where horses are regularly shampooed and washed the product can be become depleted on the horses hair coat. In these cases the impregnated mitt can be used more regularly without re-charging especially on areas where pests congregate.

For further information contact:

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