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VETERINARY VIEWPOINT

A monthly newsletter by Dr. Kathy Whitman

BOV-EYE VETERINARY SERVICES

ASSESSING THE FLY SITUATION

Revisiting fly control and associated diseases

We certainly can't complain much about the moisture we've gotten this year and how good the grass has come in. As the temperatures increase, however, the environment is prime for flies and other insects. We've all seen it in the past few weeks: more tail swishing, more irritable cattle and horses, more annoyance for ourselves. Did our fly control implemented earlier this summer even work???

Beyond their superficial annoyance, flying and biting insects are vectors for a host of health problems. Looking at horses and cattle, here are a few issues that can and will arise this summer, and how to address each directly. Remember though, the best treatment is prevention, and fly control is the most efficient and effective method.

1. Eye infections, especially pinkeye. Bacteria that cause pinkeye are natural inhabitants of the surface of the eyes. Fly irritation leads to eye trauma, which allows for bacterial introduction. Active watering and infection can be addressed with antibiotic treatment (think oxytetracycline) and a patch over the eye for UV relief.

2. Allergic reactions. More commonly seen in horses, bites or stings can result in localized itching or, in worst cases, widespread hives and respiratory issues. Severe reactions should be seen by a veterinarian ASAP, but for minor issues, cool bathing, additional fly spray application, spot treatment with anti-itch creams, and physical barriers such as masks and sheets are ways to provide relief

3. Infectious diseases. Biting insects that can transmit blood borne diseases should also be a concern. West Nile Virus and heartworm in dogs and cats are good examples of mosquito transmitted disease, and can be addressed with vaccines or monthly preventatives, as well as environmental controls. Tick borne diseases like anaplasmosis in cattle and lyme disease in dogs can be managed in much the same way.

If you have any questions about treatments or preventatives, please don't hesitate to contact us today, or follow the links below for more information

HELPFUL LINKS:

<https://livestockvetento.tamu.edu/>

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef513>

<https://www.heartwormsociety.org/>



WHEN YOUR PET GOES MISSING...

As I venture out into the community, I'm struck by the number of missing pet reports. Thankfully, social media has been a huge benefit to reuniting pets and their owners. Consider microchipping to make sure you can find your pet, and what do if a lost pet finds you:

1. Microchipping is simple and easy way to identify your pet permanently. A veterinarian can implant the chip and owners can easily register the information.
2. You must register! Not registering the tag and/or not keeping information up-to-date prolongs or prevents identification. There are several microchip companies-be sure you understand how to register the chip and potential costs associated with registration.
3. A lost pet can be taken to a local veterinarian or shelter to be scanned and located. Some pets will have a tag on their collar with the chip number that can be entered [here](#) to locate the owner.

This information and more facts can be found on the AVMA website at this [link](#).