

## Field Guide to Flies

**Know your enemy. Read up on the pests that might be bugging your horse this summer.**

*By Holly Werner*

July 2009 Exclusive

[Click for larger image](#)

### DEER FLY/HORSEFLY:

Similar in shape and appearance to the common house fly, horse flies are larger (approximately 1 1/8" long for adults). Deer flies are 1/4" to 1/2" smaller than horse flies, and usually have patterned wings. They may be black, gray or brown in color. Larvae proliferate in water or moist soil. Winged adults emerge in early summer. Adults live only a few days, and eggs are laid on aquatic plants just above water level. Powerful fliers that can travel many miles from breeding sites to find meals. Female deer and horseflies feed on blood from large mammals (although males do not).

[Click for larger image](#)

common fly found inside homes.

mouthparts, just "sponging" mouthpart for absorbing fluids, such as tears and wound secretions. produce maggots in moist organic material, such as manure. temperatures are warm.

### HOUSE FLY:

About 1/4" long and gray with black stripes on the thorax.

Does not bite.

Known scientifically as *Musca domestica*, the most

No chewing

Breed and

Found year-round, inside and outside, as long as

[Click for larger image](#)

to suck blood. stomp or kick.

in moist organic matter, such as wet manure or urine-soaked, fermenting straw, hay or feed. in 21-25 days during warm weather.

### STABLE FLY:

Resembles the house fly, but with piercing mouthpart

Both males and females attack animals around the flanks and below the knees, causing them to After feeding, flies retreat to fences or other surfaces to digest their meals. Eggs are laid

Life cycle completed

[Click for larger image](#)

sucking blood from horses and cattle throughout the day, resting continuously on the animal's shoulders and back. Females lay eggs in fresh cow manure piles.

information on reducing fly-breeding sites in your region, see "National Defense" in the July 2009 issue of Horse Illustrated.

### HORN FLY:

Small, about 3/16", and dark gray.

Feed by

Life cycle completed in 10-14 days.

For