



Sunscreens

Horses can be protected from the sun with products containing sunscreens. A horse's skin is more sensitive than a human's, and therefore it is not advisable to use human versions of sunscreens on horses. Unprotected skin can begin burning in as little as 10 minutes, bombarded with the sun's Ultra Violet B (UVB) rays. Products containing sunscreen are rated with a Sun Protection Factor, or SPF. The higher the rating, the more UVBs are filtered. An easy way to determine the length of time a product protects the animal is to multiply the SPF by 10. A sunscreen with SPF 15 will delay the onset of sunburn for 150 minutes, allowing the horse to stay out in the sun 15 times longer.

The horse's muzzle is the most prone to sunburn. Painful and potentially harmful blisters can form as a result of a bad burn. It's important to protect the muzzle on hot, sunny days if the animal is going to be in the sun for extended periods.

Companies also offer products that perform double duty as insect repellent and sunscreen. These spray-on products are easy to use, and while they generally do not carry as high an SPF as sunscreens alone, they save time and money with one purchase instead of two.

Horseblock 45 Face Lotion from Animal Health Laboratories is one of the few products made specifically for protecting the horse's sensitive skin on the face from damaging UVB rays. Contains aloe-vera and lanolin to heal and soothe irritated sunburned areas and protect against further sun damage. Pleasantly scented, waterproof formula lasts all day. Produces a lustrous shine, perfect for any show ring. Also contains citronella oil to provide protection in fly infested areas. www.equineintl.com



Quic Shade UVB sunscreen from Exhibitor Labs provides up to eight days of protection with one application. Contains moisturizers for optimum coat health, and keeps hair smooth, shiny and protected from roughness caused by sun damage. www.exhibitorlabs.com



Endure Sweat-Resistant Fly Spray and roll-on from Farnam is formulated with sunscreen and a special conditioner that helps bind to the hair shaft so it works even in wet conditions. www.farnam-horse.com



Espree's Aloe Herbal Horse Spray repels flies, gnats and mosquitoes and contains citronella, cedarwood and eucalyptus oils, aloe vera and sunscreen. www.espree.com



Cooling Apparel

Scientists have discovered that heat exhaustion in humans can be prevented by keeping the neck cool. Products that accomplish this goal proliferate. Perhaps you've seen television commercials in which people wear odd contraptions around their necks during summer activities. The same principle holds true for horses, and manufacturers are starting to respond with similar products. Cooling fabrics have traditionally been used in cold therapy products. Now, companies are applying similar technologies to summer apparel for horses. Soaking these items in water activates a cooling property, which can last for hours.

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Cool Medics offers many cooling apparel products for both the horse and rider. Shown here are the neck cooler with adjustable webbing and Velcro tie that attaches to the bridle, and the quarter sheet with front closure. Available with magnets attached for those who desire magnetic therapy. www.coolmedics.com