

# Creepy Critters!

Learn all about horrible horsey parasites! They might make you go "eww" but it's really important that we try to prevent them because they can make horses really poorly. Here we are going to show you where on a horse's body these bothersome beasts can live.

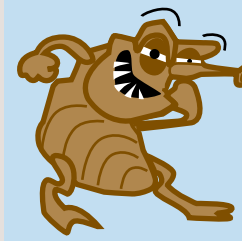


## Midges

Humans don't like these swarming, biting flies any more than horses! They really irritate horsey allergies like sweet itch!

**Found:** Anywhere on the body, but especially at the base of the mane and tail.

**Prevention:** If the horse suffers from sweet itch they may need a rug and fly repellent. Try to find a suitable paddock where midges don't thrive.

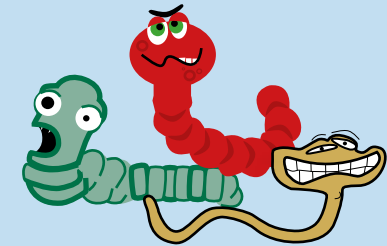


## Lice

Just like those that can live in human hair, these are itchy horsey nits.

**Found:** Anywhere on the body, but especially in the mane, tail and feathers.

**Prevention:** Amazingly stress increases the risk of lice so knowing what stresses horses and keeping them stress-free is good for lice prevention too. Also keeping them healthy in a clean environment along with regular brushing and grooming will prevent lice.

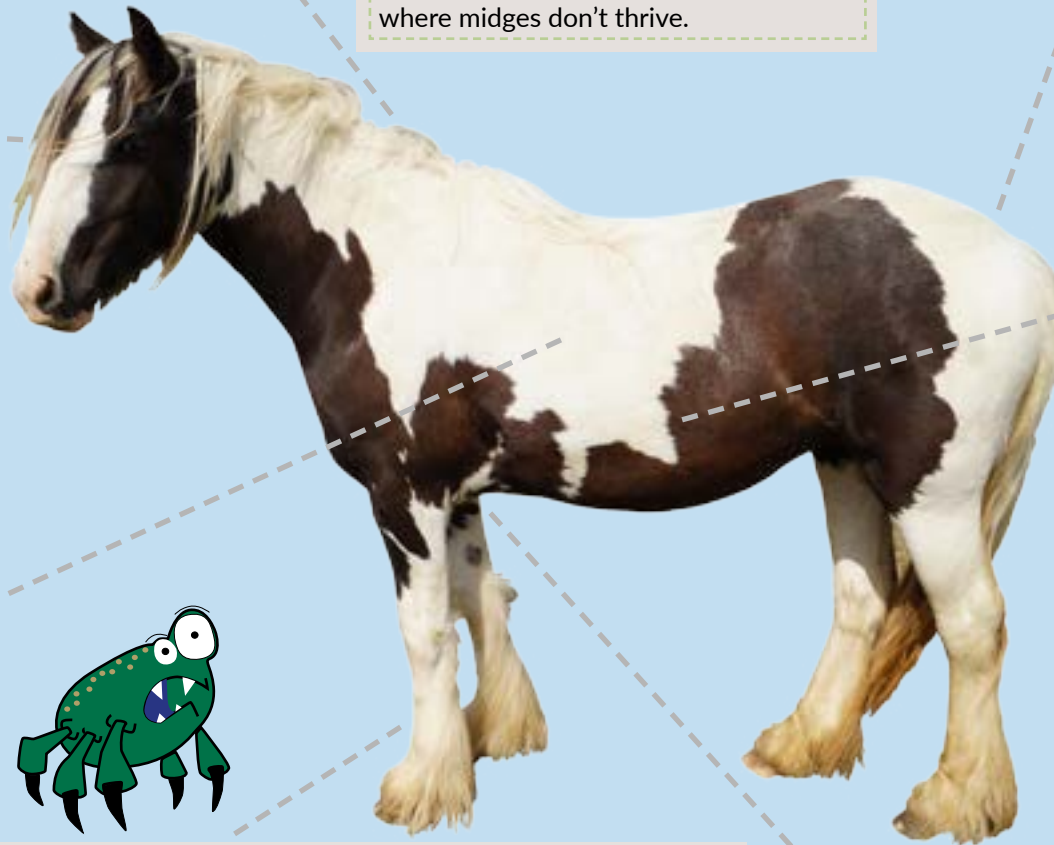


## Worms

These are not the same ones as in your garden! Some are red, some are round and some appear like a tape. All horses have worms but they can make them ill if there are too many of them.

**Found:** In the intestines.

**Prevention:** Clearing paddocks of muck on a daily basis and giving a wormer if and when needed.



## Ticks

You may have seen these bloodsuckers on dogs. They clamber on from the long grass and spread nasty diseases.

**Found:** Anywhere on the body, but especially on the legs, nose and face.

**Prevention:** Check horses daily, especially legs and under belly and in the folds of legs.

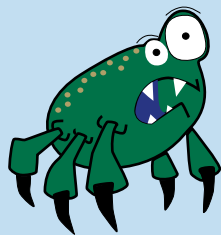


## Bots

These are the larvae of harmless flies that lay little yellow eggs on the horse's hair. When swallowed they cause quite a tummy ache!

**Found:** In the stomach.

**Prevention:** Comb out little yellow eggs from the hair.



## Mites

Mites like horses with feathery legs, such as cobs. Not all infected horses will show signs, so if one horse gets them then his field mates should be checked too!

**Found:** Anywhere on the body, but especially in the ears and on fetlocks.

**Prevention:** Mighty mites can live off a horse for up to 69 days so the key to prevention is getting rid of them effectively - vets are very important in helping here!



## Horseflies

These big beastly flies have a nasty bite and are particularly bothersome in the summer!

**Found:** Anywhere on the body, but especially on tummies and chests!

**Prevention:** Spray fly repellent and leave manes and tails long - this is the natural way for horses to keep them off.