

severe reaction to fly and bites. One big difference is that most horses with colic aren't so much agitated as they are in pain. Horses reacting to fly and bites are typically both agitated and in pain. On examination, they don't show the gastrointestinal signs typical of colic. The presence or absence of welts or hives isn't as useful an indicator; some horses who get bites don't develop welts until hours later, or even the next day.

Treatment depends on the severity of the individual horse's reaction. If it's mild, I usually administer Benadryl along with some sort of fast-acting steroid. Solo-Delta-Cortel® is a very fast-acting type of corticoid, mild in terms of side effects but potent in controlling allergic reactions.

It's what I use most commonly for fly and, if I think the reaction is severe enough that it might persist for a while, I'll use something a little longer-acting, such as dexamethasone. Within five to 10 minutes after treatment, your horse will typically show some decrease in discomfort. Over the next 20 to 40 minutes, the hives should stop proliferating and may even begin to go down. ☐



TIP: Fly and bites can be so uncomfortable for the prob- lem is hard to distinguish from colic—even for a veterinarian.

Dr. Tim Ober grew up around Standardbreds in Massachusetts. After earning his veterinary degree from Tufts University in 1992, he practiced in New Jersey, focusing on Standardbred race-track practice. He switched to the hunter/jumper world after moving to Virginia to work with Dr. Dan Flynn in Charlottesville. Still based there, he now works with Dr. John Soric, specializing in lameness and other performance issues. Dr. Ober typically spends winters on the Florida circuit, where he's "at least once every year I get called out in the middle of the night for what turns out to be a horse bitten by fire ants in his stall."

New For You

A Good Foundation

For cold-weather protection, dressing in three layers is the way to go, according to Mountain Horse. For a foundation layer, the company has introduced its **Baselayer Set** made of quick-drying, breathable moisture-management fabric. The pants have fly-lock seams to avoid rips and strap bottoms to keep them in place. The mock-neck pullover top helps keep out drafts. Black; ladies' XS-XXL, \$99.95. www.mountainhorseusa.com



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Farm-Fresh Fragrances

Capture the essence of your favorite farm scents even when the weather is cool. **Deux Chevaux** soy scented candles come in six fragrances: apple, grape, hay field, marsh, Starlight (peppermint) and tack. Each soy-wax candle comes in an 8-ounce glass mason jar, encircled with a leather strap and accented with a brass nameplate, and burns up to 60 hours. \$15 each. www.deuxchevauxproducts.com

Broader Bridle

Make fitting your Quarter Horse a breeze with the **Classic Equine Fancy Raised Quarter Horse Hunt Bridle**. It features a wider noseband and browband to accommodate broader heads without increasing cheekpiece length. The square-raised leather with fancy stitching and satin finished stainless-steel hardware give the bridle a stylish, elegant look. Comes with extra-long 60-inch lead rope. Brown; horse or cob, \$230. www.worldequine.com/bridles.com



Warm to the Core

The breathable, water- and wind-resistant **Windport™ Vest** from Kerrits will keep your core warm without causing you to overheat while in the saddle. The semi-fitted vest is machine washable, has two discrete side-rip pockets and features four-way stretch, fleece-lined Windport fabric that sheds dirt, hay and hair. Black, black with zebra print sides (shown) or saddle brown; ladies' XS-XL, \$79. www.kerrits.com. ☐