

# Common Flies Around Horses

## Face Flies

The Face Fly is a pasture fly that feeds on the mucus secretions around the eyes and nasal cavities. They have an abrasive sponging mouthpart that irritates the eye and surrounding skin, causing tearing. The face fly soaks in tears and other eye secretions and is a known transmitter of *Moraxella bovis*, which is the causative agent for bovine pink eye. They are only on the animal to feed and will spend the majority of their time resting on vegetation, fencing and buildings, otherwise leaving to lay their eggs in fresh manure.



## House Flies

The House Fly is very common and can be responsible for spreading disease and general animal discomfort and irritation. They have a sucking mouthpart that feeds on liquids or soft material, which they regurgitate their saliva onto in order to soften the material. They can live in vegetation, barns and wooded areas, and lay their eggs in both manure and composted material.



## Stable Flies

The Stable Fly is a biting fly which is commonly found in barn lots or feedlot settings. They bite with a mouth part that has a piercing needle-like structure, which penetrates the hides of cattle and horses. They will lay their eggs in both manure and composted material.



## Horse Flies

The Horse Fly likely received its common name because it is a notorious pest of horses and other mammals. It is a biting fly. They are commonly found near bodies of water, which serve as breeding sites, and where mammal hosts are most abundant. They are bothersome flies to a horse that will actively try to escape from it or swat/kick it away.



## Bot Flies

Bot flies are among the few true insect parasites. Adult bot flies are typically large robust flies that often resemble bees. They are bothersome flies to a horse who will actively try to escape from them or swat/kick at them. They lay eggs on a horse's legs and chest in the Fall where the horse will rub and ingest them. The eggs hatch in the gums and the parasitic larvae, which are large spiny maggots, live and grow in the digestive system until they are defecated in the spring.

