

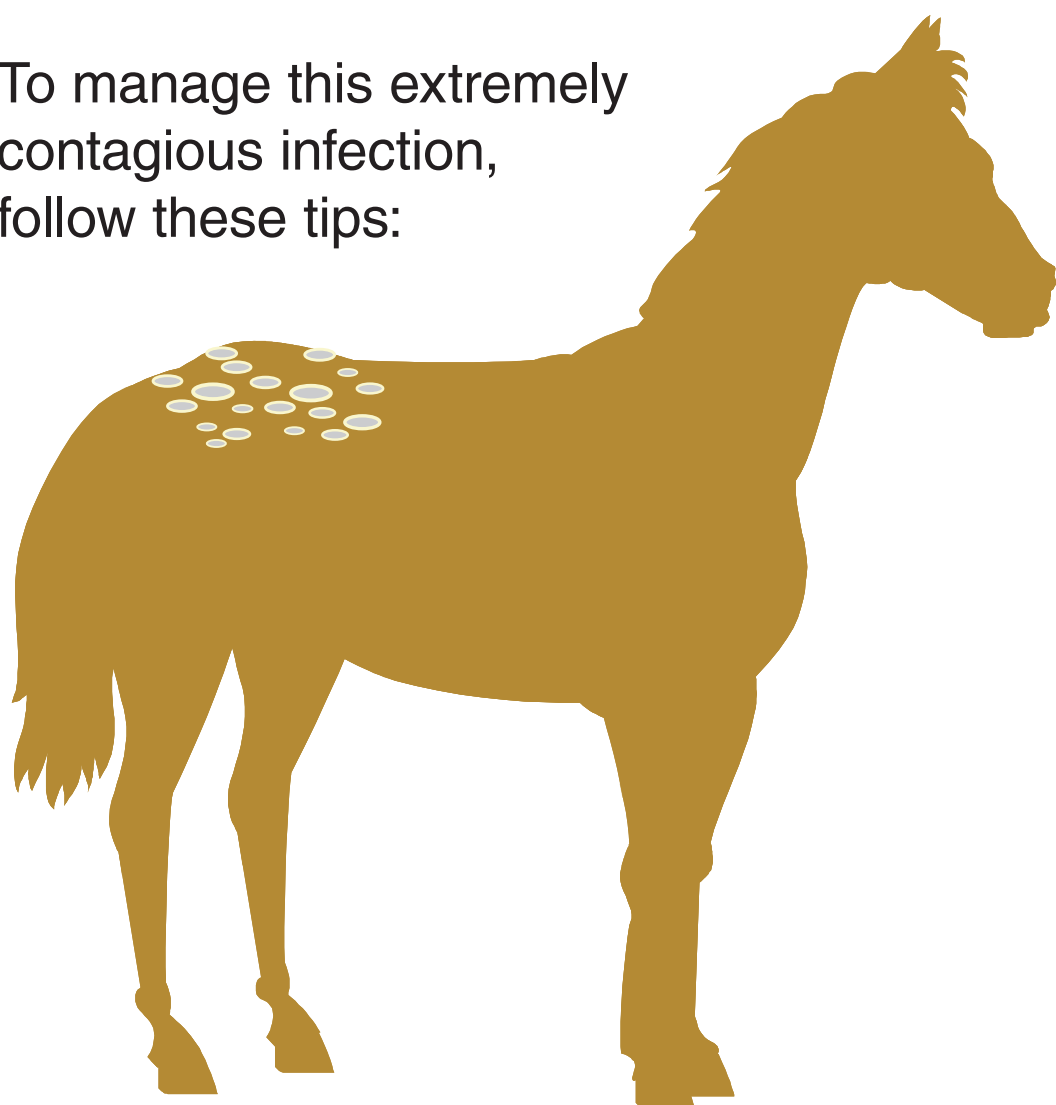
The Battle Against Rain Rot

The Educated Horseman: Disease Series



Commonly mistaken for a fungal disease, rain rot (dermatophilosis) is actually a bacterial infection caused by *Dermatophilus congolensis*. This bacterial infection causes dry, crusty lesions on a horse's skin. Heavy winter coats allow moisture to stay in contact with the skin, creating an anaerobic condition that increases bacterial growth.

To manage this extremely contagious infection, follow these tips:



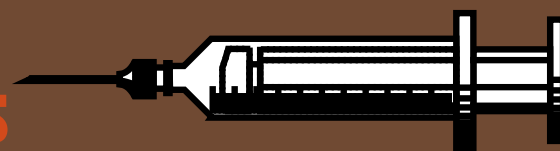
Most mild cases of rain rot will resolve on their own. However, it is important to prevent the infection from spreading. If your horse's condition does not improve with antimicrobial treatment, contact your local veterinarian.



Bathe

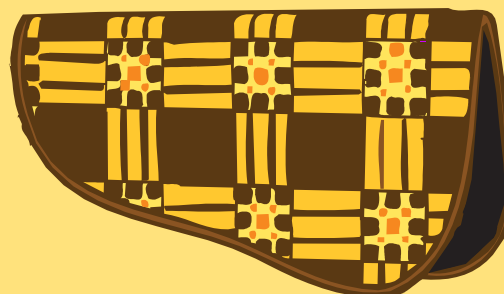
Bathe your horse with **antimicrobial shampoo** (e.g., Betadine or Cholorhexadine) and gently remove the scabs.

Antibiotics



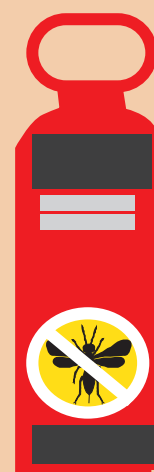
Treat infection with **antibacterial** salve or spray.

In severe cases where multiple layers of skin are affected, **antibiotics** may be required.



Disinfect

Disinfect saddle pads, blankets and grooming supplies.

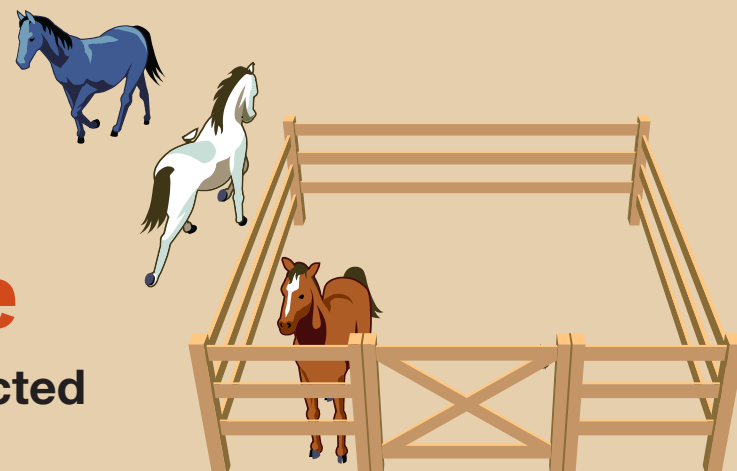


Spray

Use **insect spray** to reduce skin trauma.

Isolate

Isolate infected horses.



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