

# SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

Is your sweet itch knowledge supersonic?  
Our quiz holds the answers!

## ANSWERS

**S**weet itch is a common skin condition affecting lots of ponies each year. It's really uncomfortable, and your pony needs the right help to improve. Do you know how to spot the signs? And what would you do to make him more comfortable if he got sweet itch? Test how sweet itch savvy you are right here!

### 1 What causes sweet itch?

- A. An allergic reaction to his feed
- B. Grooming him too often with a hard bristled brush
- C. An allergic reaction to midge bites

### 2 What are the main symptoms?

- A. Your pony will be itchy, mainly around the neck, mane and tail areas, causing sore, rubbed patches
- B. Affected ponies will lose their appetite for sugary foods
- C. Ponies with sweet itch have stiff joints and take longer to warm up when you ride

### 3 What time of year does sweet itch most commonly occur?

- A. Between March and November
- B. Over winter when he may be fed more hard feed
- C. Only between September and October

### 4 Which of the following steps can be taken to help prevent it? (tick all that apply)

- A. Keeping your pony in a breezy paddock
- B. Using special rugs and fly repellents
- C. Keeping your pony stabled at dusk and dawn

### 5 In severe cases, sweet itch can lead to...

- A. A nasty cough
- B. Open wounds and bleeding
- C. Allergies to other parasites, such as roundworms and tapeworms

### 6 Sweet itch affects...

- A. Ponies under 13hh and mostly piebalds and skewbalds
- B. Only competition ponies
- C. Any type of pony, but it's most common in native breeds

### 7 What is the best way to spot the early signs?

- A. Blood test
- B. Regularly checking your pony
- C. Ask a friend to keep an eye out

### 8 If you suspect your pony has sweet itch, it's best to call your vet to get a proper diagnosis and advice on the best treatment.

- TRUE
- FALSE

### 9 Sweet itch is highly contagious so you must isolate your pony from his field mates immediately.

- TRUE
- FALSE

### 10 Midges lay their eggs near water so it's best to avoid turning sweet-itch-prone ponies out near ponds.

- TRUE
- FALSE

## HOW DID YOU GET ON?

### 0-4 points Slightly struggling

Now's a good time to do some research so you can brush up on your sweet itch knowledge and keep your pony well protected. Once you've done that, try our quiz again to see if your new-found knowledge makes you supersonic!

### 5-7 points So-so

Your understanding of sweet itch isn't too bad, but there's room for improvement. It won't take long to become more in the know and your pony will love you for it, too.

### 8-12 points Supersonic

We're impressed! You've definitely done your sweet itch homework, so well done, you. If your pony does develop symptoms, we have no doubt he's in capable hands.

MY SCORE...

/12

