



## Typical Questions – Riotte

### **What are Scratches and what causes it?**

Scratches is an equine infection cause by dermatophilosis congolensis (bacteria). Generally, scratches is a condition that usually affects the horse's pastern (right below his ankle bone), heel, or fetlock. You'll notice crusty scabs and red, inflamed skin, cracked areas that can be swollen and hot to the touch, tender feet, and in some cases lameness. Scratches are generally more prevalent in horses that are subject to wet muddy conditions for extended periods. Horses with white also feet seem to be more susceptible to scratches. Causes associated with scratches include bacteria, parasites (i.e. fungus), allergies, photosensitivity, poor or improper nutrition, irritants (i.e. deworming chemicals, antibiotics), soil bedding, ect. Scratches is also known as Mud Fever, Greasy Heel, and Dew Poisoning.

### **Do I need to pick off the scabs or scrub them off when treating with ESRT-Riotte?**

No. Just spray it on twice a day. The only time you will need to wash the legs, is if they are covered with mud, manure or debris.

### **Are scratches contagious?**

Under normal conditions no. However, horses with white feet and/ or feces are more susceptible to scratches being spread through close contact by scratching, grooming, rubbing on the fences or on each other, or through shared grooming tools. Horses in contact with each other, living in similar conditions, may all have scratches, suggesting it could be contagious in those circumstances.

### **Will scratches come back?**

Yes, even though ESRT-Riotte has treated the present case it can come back. This is because the predisposing cause of scratches has not been eliminated. Environment, sunlight, moisture, irrational, nutrition, bedding conditions, allergies, ect, are all still present.

### **Should I rest my horse from exercise if he has scratches?**

Yes. When the skin is swollen, cracked and inflamed it can be irritated by exercise, allowing the infection to spread deeper into already damaged tissue. Horses should be kept on a hard surface for at least 1 hour, after applying ESRT.