

Skin Condition	Cause	Treatment	Prevention
Pastern dermatitis (scratches, dew poisoning)	Bacterial infection caused when dirt and moisture is trapped against the skin of the pastern	Scrub the affected area with an antimicrobial such as dilute Betadine and dry thoroughly	Keep the lower legs clean and dry
Dermatophilosis (rain rot, rain scald)	Fungal infection that thrives in wet, rainy conditions	Bathe horse with a mild antiseptic shampoo and dry coat thoroughly; severe cases may need to be treated with antibiotics	Keep the coat dry. Make sure the horse has access to shelter during rainy weather.
Dermatophytosis (ringworm)	Fungal infection that is contagious between horses and from horses to humans	Keep the affected area dry and allow the infection to run its course	Disinfect grooming tools and avoid sharing brushes between horses to prevent spread
Allergic reactions	Often caused by insect bites		Use fly spray, fly sheets and management practices to minimize the number of biting insects
Sarcoids	Viral infection	Surgical removal or other treatment options may be recommended by the vet	
Squamous cell carcinoma	Cancer	Requires veterinary attention	
Melanoma	Cancer, common in gray horses	Requires veterinary attention	Although not preventable, regular grooming and inspection can help with early detection.