



Is Your Horse Travelling?

It Can Bring More Than a Ribbon Home

New World Screwworm (NWS) risk is linked to wounds, travel history and exposure to flies in affected regions, such as southern USA, Mexico and South America. When horses travel to or through warm climates, wound prevention and inspection are important.

NWS flies are attracted to wounds and moist body openings. Horses can have small wounds that are easy to miss, especially under tack, blankets or boots.



Before Travel

- Check current Canadian and destination requirements.
- Speak with your veterinarian about travel-related disease risks.
- Do not let your horse travel with open or untreated wounds unless advised by a veterinarian.
- Plan for fly control, wound care and daily inspections.



During Travel

- Check under tack, girths, boots, wraps and blankets.
- Inspect legs, belly, sheath/udder area, ears, eyes, mouth and tail base.
- Keep wounds clean and protected.
- Do not ignore rubs, scratches, punctures or insect bites.

Before Returning to Canada

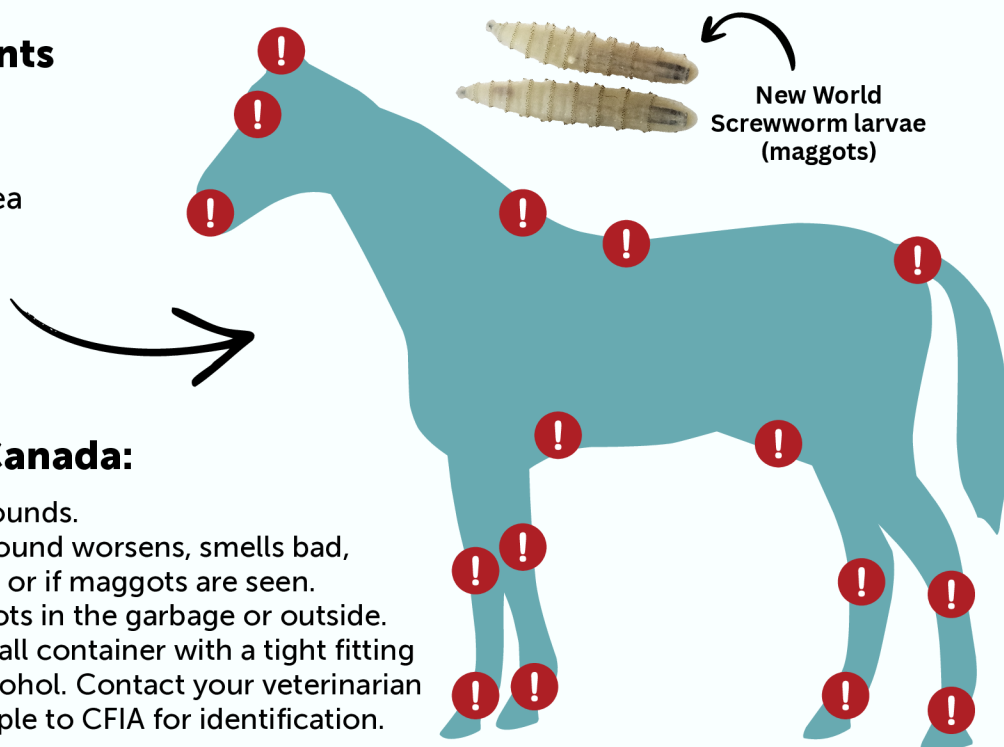
- Complete a full-body wound check.
- Ask a veterinarian to examine concerning wounds.
- Keep travel records, including locations and dates.

Key Inspection Points Include:

- ears, eyes, mouth
- withers and saddle area
- girth area
- legs and pasterns
- tail base
- sheath/udder area
- any wound or rub

After returning to Canada:

- Continue monitoring wounds.
- Call a veterinarian if a wound worsens, smells bad, drains, becomes painful, or if maggots are seen.
- Do not throw live maggots in the garbage or outside.
- Collect maggots in a small container with a tight fitting lid that contains 70% alcohol. Contact your veterinarian on how to submit a sample to CFIA for identification.



Provincial sport bodies, event organizers and clubs can help by sharing travel-risk reminders before and after events. When in doubt, contact an equine veterinarian.