

## **Sheath Cleaning Using Pre~Seed EQ Veterinary Lubricant**

Cleaning a gelding or stallion's sheath is a routine part of horse health care, although many owners are nervous about doing this procedure themselves. Pre~Seed EQ offers a no muss, no fuss solution for sheath cleaning that almost any one with a well behaved horse can complete.

The sheath is the fold of skin on a male horse between their hind legs that protects the retracted penis. Your veterinarian can help you learn the anatomy of your horse's penis and sheath, assess your horse's reaction to the procedure, and give you pointers about safety. Sedation is not necessary if your horse has been properly trained to the procedure. The horse does not have to drop his penis, if you understand the anatomy you can still do a thorough job.

Here are a couple of pointers you need to remember!

- 1) You will not cause physical harm to your horse's sheath, penis or urinary tract by handling it;
- 2) You can irritate this sensitive area, resulting in pain and swelling, if you use the wrong product on the sheath region;
- 3) You can be injured if your horse objects to the procedure;
- 4) You should enlist the help of your veterinarian until you can perform sheath cleaning thoroughly and safely yourself.

There are many cleansers and lubricants on the market that claim not to irritate the sheath; however, many can be irritating, including products as seemingly benign as KY® jelly or those containing "natural" ingredients.

In contrast, Pre~Seed EQ Veterinary Lubricant is an excellent choice as a sheath cleaner, since it has undergone extensive testing to prove its gentleness that no other product can match (see [preseedvet.com](http://preseedvet.com)). Pre~seed EQ was originally invented as a "fertility-friendly" Veterinary Lubricant for use during fertility procedures. Most other lubricants harm sperm and should be avoided in the breeding shed. This is because these lubricants are hyperosmotic (or have a high ion concentration) which kills sperm and also can cause irritation of sensitive tissues. Pre-Seed EQ is isotonic (meaning it has the same ion concentration as body fluids), this means it doesn't cause tissue irritation as shown in published clinical studies. This makes it a very gentle and effective sheath cleaner.

### **Directions:**

A little Pre~Seed EQ goes a long way. To use, simply apply non-latex gloves and squeeze 1-2 tablespoons into the palm of your hand. Coat the penis and inside sheath area, including the pocket in front of the sheath. Check the end of the penis for a firm lump – this is commonly known as the "bean" – if present, gently squeeze it out of its small opening. Large beans may have to be gently broken

down before they can be extracted. If the area becomes dry do not add more product – simply wet your hand with warm water as often as necessary.

Peeling secretions from the penis or sheath without copious lubrication causes pain, which will teach the horse to object to the procedure. Instead, wait 5 minutes after applying Pre~Seed EQ for the sheath secretions to soften. Then rinse with warm water either using a large syringe or a low pressure hose, or you can just wipe the sheath clean with dripping wet paper towels or cotton batting. Pre~Seed EQ is so mild, you need not fear leaving any residue.

Even if you do your own sheath cleaning, your veterinarian will probably want to examine your horse during check ups in order to rule out any abnormalities, such as infection, contact dermatitis, or even tumors. If you notice swelling or other abnormalities of the sheath or penis, contact your veterinarian.

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