

Integument



KEY WORDS:

Thermoregulator

Hair

Dermis

Epidermis

undercoat

The integument of horses includes the hair, outer skin layer known as the epidermis and the underlying layer, the dermis.

Function: The integument has several functions the first is to protect the horse from sun, wind, disease, and physical harm. It is also a thermoregulator that helps a horse sense the outside temperature.

Details:

The hooves are also a part of the integument which helps protect the sensitive structures of a horse's foot.

The deep inner skin layer is known as the dermis which is attached to a sheet of skeletal muscle. The skin contains all the things that make the skin fully functional for the horse. It contains the blood transporters, veins and arteries, it also contains nerves and sweat glands to help with the regulation of body temperature, as well as the hair follicles where a horse's hair grows.

A horse has two types of hair on its body; one is the hair that covers the entire body known as the undercoat. A horse also has eyelashes and facial hair, and tail and mane hair that are permanent fixtures. Hair also helps with body regulation of heat as well as protection of the skin and eyes. Hair can come in a variety of colors based on a horse's genetics.