

## Fly: Horse



**My Home:** I am generally found near areas that contain water and also close to livestock areas, which is a food source.

**What I eat:** As a larva, I eat other insects, worms, snails and occasionally a small fish. If I am an adult female, I will drink the blood of large animals and humans. If I am a male adult, I will only drink nectar from flowers or juices from fruit.

**What I look like:** I am up to 1-1/4 inches in length. I can have grey, black, or a brown body and my two wings are generally dark colored. I resemble a housefly, but am larger and have short horn shaped antennae.

**How I am born:** I go through four stages of development: egg, larva, pupa and adult. My egg is laid on plants in or near water. Once I hatch, as a larva I will spend one to two years growing in moist soil or water. As an adult, I only live for a few days.

**Fun Facts:** If a horse or deer fly land on you and bite, it is a female fly!

In the world there are around 3,000 species of horse flies, 350 in North America alone!