

The menace of the common house-fly

Contributed by the N.S.W. Health Department

There is no lack of evidence to prove that the common house-fly is one of man's deadliest enemies. Laboratory tests have shown that there are over 30 different diseases which may be spread by the insect.

Some of the more familiar are typhoid fever, dysentery, sore eyes and anthrax.

The fly is uniquely equipped as a filth-spreading machine. Its entire body is covered with a tangle of fine close-growing hairs which act as a catch-all for any particles with which it may come in contact.

Well fitted for carrying filth, too, are the fly's suction-padded feet.

Flies are not fussy about their choice of food. They enjoy equally a meal such as decaying garbage, manure, or a tasty morsel from your dinner table.

As the fly has no teeth, it must take its food in liquid form, sucking it up through a trunk-like mouth piece. Before eating its meal the fly softens it by vomiting a fluid on it.

The breeding habits of the fly are equally disgusting. Flies breed in filth and refuse of various kinds, showing preference for decaying vegetable matter, old rags and paper and animal and human excreta, particularly horse manure.

Fly Control

Improved cleanliness is the first step in fly control. Insecticides should be used as a supplement, but never as a substitute for sanitation.

Important steps in fly control are:—

- Place all garbage promptly in a proper receptacle. Wrapping in newspaper assists in preventing fly breeding and allows the receptacle to be emptied cleanly.
- Use proper receptacles. These should be made of metal and be water-tight, with tightly fitting lids.
- Keep all stable manure in properly constructed bins. Empty and clean these at least once a week. When using as a fertiliser, spread thinly.
- If there is a pan closet on the premises, place in each pan immediately it is received a half-cupful of "blue oil", or Kerosene, with D.D.T. Make sure that the opening is provided with a hinged lid and that this is kept closed when the pan is not in use.
- Keep yards, especially horse and fowl-yards, clean.
- Keep grease traps clean.

Proper screening of all doors, windows and other openings, where possible, is important also in fly control. If, in spite of all your efforts, flies enter the house they

should be immediately destroyed by spraying, poisoning, trapping with fly papers, or swatting.

It is obvious from a brief study of the fly and its habits that it should never be allowed to come into contact with food. Every article of food, during preparation and at the table, should be covered as a further link in the defence chain against this deadly invader.

If in spite of your best efforts flies are prevalent in your district, do not hesitate to seek the advice of your local health inspector.

Letters to Pete

PEN PALS WANTED

Dear Pete,

I am looking for a boy Aboriginal pen-friend in the Northern Territory on a cattle station. My name, as you can see at the end of this letter, is Vicki Redman, and I am a white girl of 15.

My hobbies are swimming, stamp collecting and riding horses, and I also love walking and camping.

Inverell, where I live, has a population of approximately 10,000, and is about 80 miles from Moree on the Gwydir Highway. I attend the Inverell High School, of about 1,000 pupils, and I am in 3rd form.

I would like to correspond with a boy about my own age or older.

Vicki Redman,
"Blocken", Woodstock Rd.,
INVERELL, N.S.W.

Dear Pete,

I wish to have an Aboriginal pen-friend in New South Wales about the same age as myself. My name is Kerry Davies, and I will be 15 on 19th September.

My interests are sport, swimming, travel and friendly correspondence. I don't mind if my pen-friend is a boy or a girl.

Kerry Davies,
22 Balmoral Rd.,
MORTDALE HEIGHTS

Dear Pete,

The time has come for me to drop you a few lines. I am 16 and work at Wagga Wagga, which I like very much. I used to work in Sydney, but did not like it there.

Every Thursday I go to see my cousin and I go bowling every Monday night and find it very interesting. I enclose a photo of myself for *Dawn*. Cheerio,

Rosemary King,
MURRIN BRIDGE,
Via Lake Cargelligo

(Thanks for the letter and picture, Rosemary. Unfortunately the picture, with its dark background, was not suitable for reproduction.—Pete)