Dog Dung Fly

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Musca sorbens Wiedman

Origin
Found in Hawaii in 1949. Currently it is widely dispersed throughout the Pacific.

Public health concern
Exhibits an aggressive attraction to the human body. May cause infections in open wounds. Implicated in transmitting viruses, bacteria, and parasites to animals and man.

Hosts
Cattle, swine, dogs, cats.

Livestock concern
Can pass diseases in livestock.

Description
Small fly about 3/16 inches long, about half the size of the house fly. Has two black stripes down its gray back. Unlike the house fly, it rarely enters homes and is not attracted to food.

Life cycle
Growth stages: egg, larva, pupa, adult. From egg to adult takes 15 days. Eggs are laid in cracks and crevices of animal dung. Larvae feed on the dung for 4–5 days, and pupae emerge as adults 4–5 days later.

Control
Dairies need to clear milking stalls of fresh manure daily. Change to animal rations that contain less corn. In urban areas, the daily collection and disposal of pet feces is recommended. Pyrethrins and other chemicals have been successfully used for the quick knock-down of adult flies. Consult your pesticide supplier for recommended products, and always follow label directions.

References

Photo: R.F.L. Mau, CTAHR, UHM.