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It might have been snowing in Colorado a week ago, but right now, it feels like summer is just around the corner. The birds are chirping, trees are budding and temperatures are starting to near 70. While this change in weather is uplifting and welcomed, it does bring with it some of an equestrians worst enemies, flies! That's why now was a perfect time to review the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet by SmartPak.

I was elated when I received this product, because Maddie lives on about a 20 acre pasture, which is wonderful for her mental state, but is not ideal for managing flies. She's pretty cooperative when it comes to preventing flies, but sometimes it gets to be a lot of sprays, rolls and ointments, so it's really nice to be able to throw a protective sheet on her. When I first pulled the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet out of its packaging, I was shocked at how light it felt. Not in a flimsy way, but in a durable breathable way. I was able to bend the tight mesh around in my hands and noticed how pliable it was and thought of how well it would move with Maddie's natural movements as she roamed her pasture. According to the SmartPak website, this material is a durable ripstop material that resists tears. The color combination of the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet was also very flattering. It features classic navy accents which pair well with the white and navy mesh of the blanket. Another feature I learned about the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet in doing my research is that SmartPak offers a 3-Year Durability Guarantee. Because Maddie is in pasture, she can be tough on blankets, so this was really reassuring to know that SmartPak stands behind their product enough to put that type of guarantee on it. According to the SmartPak website, if anything happens to the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet within three years of purchase, they'll replace or refund it. However, the guarantee does not cover fly sheets that have embroidery stitched anywhere other than surcingle straps, as it compromises the integrity of the fly sheet. As horse owners, we're very aware of the price our equipment costs and so this guarantee by SmartPak is comforting to know that your investment is protected. I grabbed the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet and headed out to the pasture where Maddie was patiently waiting for me to try it on.

As I began to unfold the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet and put it on Maddie, I immediately noticed that this sheet also includes a removable neck cover. I decided to add the neck cover, as they don't bother Maddie and I appreciate the added protection. The neck cover attaches to the main sheet incredibly easily, yet incredibly securely. The neck cover sports four metal o-rings that coincide with four hook and loop closures on the sheet. To attach I simply ran the hook and loop closure through the o-rings and fastened it to the other side, with a small pieces of mesh overlapping to prevent those pesky bugs. Even though this seems like such a simple feature, I love a lot of aspects of it. This type of connection allows for movement throughout the neck cover, so that when Maddie is grazing or moving her head from side to side, the neck cover will go with her and not bunch or pull too tightly. I also like how low profile this securing function is. It laid flat along the sheet which helps reduce it getting caught on anything Maddie might find to scratch on. The neck cover also features a hook and loop closure at the poll, in case you need to attach the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet to a halter for even more security.

As I continued to adjust the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet to Maddie, noticed even more small, thoughtful features that together make this sheet so great. To start the front closure, at the front of Maddie's chest features two different types of security functions. First, there is a double sided hook and loop closure, to ensure that no pests get under the blanket. Then, on top of that, the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet sports two surcingle style closures with thick elastic bands, for an even more customized and comfortable fit. Even with two types of securing mechanisms, the front of the sheets still has a very streamlined look to it and isn't bulky. Moving to Maddie's barrel, I noticed that the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet features a wide mesh belly band, that allows for even more protection. Maddie is relatively sane when it comes to nagging flies, but the one place she can't stand having them is her belly. She will stomp and swish angrily if there is anything buzzing near her belly, so this additional protection of the belly band is something that she truly appreciates. This belly band is also attached by two surcingle style closures with adjustable elastic bands. Moving to her hind quarters I found the last security function on the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet, the elastic leg straps. These straps were also completely adjustable and secured to small d-rings on the sheet with a simple clip. As I stood back to examine Maddie and the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet, I was able to see how all of the small details in this sheet resulted in a customized, comfortable and cool fit. The SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet covered Maddie thoroughly, from her poll to the tail flap, down her shoulders and haunches and under her belly. In my research on the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet, I learned that in addition to protecting against pests it also offers up to 40% UV block for sun protection. This is a huge perk for me, because Maddie is a deep seal bay, and I like to keep her coat as brilliant as I can.

Overall, I really appreciated the small details that produced an exceptional product in the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet. From the fit, to the security, and the composition to the added protection, this sheet went above and beyond to protect from flies. For more information on the SmartMesh Ultimate Fly Sheet please visit [smartpak.com](http://smartpak.com) that's -> [smartpak.com](http://smartpak.com) <- for more information.

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