



### Worming Your Horse



*Worms can affect all horses and ponies whether stabled or at grass, although grazing horses have a higher risk. It is not enough just to worm your horse on a regular basis; the active ingredients of the wormer and pasture management also play a significant role.*

#### How can I tell if my horse has a worm problem?

The most commonly seen clinical signs associated with gastrointestinal worms are very non-specific e.g. lethargy, failure to do well, dull coat, anaemia, weight loss, diarrhoea, colic, itchy rear end and loss of appetite.

The best way to confirm that these signs may be due to a high worm burden is to perform a **worm egg count** on your horses' faeces. This is a very simple test that Larkmead Vet Group can perform which will show us the effectiveness of your worming programme and allow us to strategically target treatment. It is best to carry these out from February to early June, and then to repeat them in September or October to coincide with the seasonality of the worms.

#### What types of worms are there?

- ▶ **Small Redworms** (cyathostomes) - These are the most important especially in grazing animals from spring to summer. They have a short life cycle (6-8 weeks) which is why horses may need regular worming.
- ▶ **Large Redworms** (strongyles) - These are less of a problem and avermectin wormers are very effective at treating this type.
- ▶ **Large Roundworms** (ascarids) - These are usually found in younger horses as older horses establish some level of immunity. All foals need to be started on a worming programme from six weeks of age.
- ▶ **Pinworms/Seatworms** (oxyuris) - These require good stable management for their control as the worms can be found around the rear end of your horse and can be very itchy.
- ▶ **Bots** (gastrophilus) - These are actually flies but the larvae overwinter in the lining of the stomach. The fly eggs can be picked off the coat manually.
- ▶ **Tape worms** (anoplocephala) - These worms live within the small intestine of the horse and can be responsible for causing colic.

The commonly used worming products have a variable action on each of these types of worm and therefore your worming routine needs to be devised to tactically target each type at the correct time of year. The real key is ***only worm the wormy horse!***

## A suggested worming programme.....

### Year 1 (moxidectin year)

March	End of April	End of July	End of Oct	Mid Dec
<b>Panacur Guard</b>	<b>Equest</b>	<b>Equest</b>	<b>Double dose strongid P</b>	<b>Equest</b>

### Year 2 (Ivermectin year)

March	Mid April	End of June	End of Aug	End of Oct	Mid Dec
<b>Panacur Guard</b>	<b>Eqvalan</b>	<b>Eqvalan</b>	<b>Eqvalan</b>	<b>Double dose Strongid P</b>	<b>Eqvalan</b>

### Year 3 (pyrantel year)

Mid Feb	March	Mid April	End of May	Mid July	End of Aug	Mid Nov	January
<b>Strongid P or equest</b>	<b>Panacur Guard</b>	<b>Strongid P</b>	<b>Strongid P</b>	<b>Strongid P</b>	<b>Strongid P</b>	<b>Double dose strongid P</b>	<b>Eqvalan</b>

### What else can I do to prevent worms?

It's all about breaking the cycle! There are many simple ways of lowering the likelihood of worm infestation such as:

- ▶ Daily removal of droppings from grazing.
- ▶ Avoid overstocking - max one horse per acre.
- ▶ Divide large paddocks into smaller areas to rest pasture between grazing - this will decrease the worm burden.
- ▶ Include all horses grazed together on the same worming protocol.
- ▶ Worm all newcomers before their first introduction to the herd and keep stabled for 48 hours after worming to allow worms to be killed, preventing viable eggs reaching your pasture.
- ▶ Only harrow your paddock in very hot/dry weather - this will subject the worm eggs to drying which kills them. Be careful not to do it during wet weather as this can actually spread the parasites.
- ▶ Feed horses adequately and never directly off the floor of the stable.

### Special Offer:

**Bring faeces in for a worm egg count ~  
If the test is positive, you will get the test FREE  
if you buy your wormer  
from us.**