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## Recommended Worming Programme 2017

Wormer resistance is now becoming a big problem and it is now naive to assume that when you give your horse a wormer it will clear them of worms. In order to reduce the risk of resistance developing and to monitor for resistance at your premises, we strongly recommend **strategic worming**. This involves taking worm egg counts on a regular basis to monitor your horse's status and only use wormers when the evidence shows they are necessary. It is now thought that low worm burdens can actually benefit horses by stimulating their immunity so worming is only required if a high burden is found (i.e. over 150 worm eggs per gram of faeces). Worm egg counts do not test for tapeworms or bot larvae, and are not a reliable test for encysted redworms (cyathostomids). We recommend a blood or saliva test for tapeworms at least once a year (ideally twice yearly in May and November) and worming for bots and encysted redworms in late autumn each year. For more specific advice on worming of foals and pregnant mares, see reverse.

Some horses kept in very low risk situations (such as horses kept on their own or with one other which have had negative worm egg counts previously) may not require worm egg counts as often. Please call us for specific advice if you think your horse is at very low risk. This programme is intended as a guide only and will not suit every horse, so please contact us on 01254 888600 or [info@equine-vet.co.uk](mailto:info@equine-vet.co.uk) if you have any queries or require more specific advice.

<b>January</b>																	
<b>February</b>																	
<b>March</b>	<b>Worm egg count</b>	<b>MARCH</b> If < 150 epg*, no need to worm If > 150 epg*, give <b>Strongid P</b>															
<b>April</b>																	
<b>May</b>																	
<b>June</b>	<b>Worm egg count and tapeworm test</b>	<b>JUNE</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Test</th><th>Result</th><th>Advice</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Worm egg count</td><td>&lt;150 epg*</td><td>No need to worm for roundworms</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>&gt;150 epg*</td><td>Worm for roundworms</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tapeworm</td><td>Positive</td><td>Worm for tapeworms</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Negative</td><td>No need to worm for tapeworms</td></tr> </tbody> </table> To worm for roundworms only, use <b>standard dose of Strongid P</b> To worm for tapeworms only, use <b>Equitape</b> To worm for both roundworms and tapeworms, use <b>Double Dose of Strongid P</b>	Test	Result	Advice	Worm egg count	<150 epg*	No need to worm for roundworms		>150 epg*	Worm for roundworms	Tapeworm	Positive	Worm for tapeworms		Negative	No need to worm for tapeworms
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Worm egg count	<150 epg*	No need to worm for roundworms															
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<b>July</b>																	
<b>August</b>																	
<b>September</b>	<b>Worm egg count</b>	<b>EARLY SEPTEMBER</b> If < 150 epg*, no need to worm If > 150 epg*, give <b>Strongid P</b>															
<b>October</b>																	
<b>November</b>	<b>Equest Pramox</b>	<b>LATE NOVEMBER</b> Give <b>Equest Pramox</b> (Not suitable if < 7 months old) If horses repeatedly have zero worm egg count and tapeworm results over a couple of years, it may not be necessary to use Equest Pramox at this time of year, therefore you should consult your vet as to the most appropriate action.															
<b>December</b>																	

**KEY** \* Youngsters under three years old should be wormed if they have a worm egg count result > 0 epg (compared to > 150epg for adult horses)

\* epg = worm eggs per gram of faeces

If previous worm egg count results have suggested a resistance to pyrantel (Strongid P), use an Ivermectin wormer instead.

## Further Information on Worming

### Correct Dosing

The correct dose of wormer should be given for the weight of your horse. The weight can be estimated using a weigh tape around the girth region and we are happy to supply these if you don't have one. Horses vaccinated by the practice can also be weighed with a weigh tape as part of their pre-vaccination health check. Syringes generally contain enough to treat a 600g to 700kg horse depending on the brand. Equimax tablets are dosed as one tablet per 100-110kg bodyweight. Most wormers are safe, so in general it is better to slightly overdose than to underdose but be careful not to overdose foals and small ponies, especially with Equest or Equest Pramox.



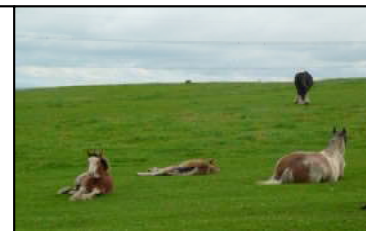
### Worm Egg Counts

These are used to find out if your horse is currently infected with roundworms. The count does not detect tapeworms or encysted redworms. Worm egg count kits are available through the practice for £13.04 and include full instructions for collecting and submitting the sample. Results are given in eggs per gram of faeces (epg) and the result will be reported to you by one of our vets, who will be able to advise whether worming is required and when to retest.



### Worm Egg Count Reduction Tests

If a number of horses on a yard have worm egg counts over 150epg, there could be a wormer resistance problem on the premises. To test for resistance, repeated worm egg counts can be done around a week after worming. If the wormer has been effective, they should be lower or zero. Repeat worm egg counts can sometimes be done free of charge.



### Tapeworm Testing

We recommend a blood sample or saliva sample at least once per year (and ideally twice a year) to test for tapeworms. These are not detected by normal faecal egg counts and have been proven to be associated with colic. A blood sample can be taken by the vet on any non-emergency visit or we can supply EquiSal saliva testing kits which contain full instructions on how to obtain a sample and send it off to the laboratory. The tapeworm blood test costs £40 (including blood sample and laboratory fee) and the EquiSal test kit is £21.54. Results will be discussed with you and advice given regarding whether a tapeworm dose is required.



### New Horses

We recommend any new horses with an uncertain worming history are wormed with Equest Pramox before being introduced to the pasture. This treats all types of worms including roundworms, tapeworm, bots and encysted worms. Having a worm egg count and tapeworm blood test carried can also help to establish the horse's current worm status.



### Foals and Pregnant Mares

Equest Pramox must not be given to foals less than 7 months old and Equest should not be given to foals less than 4 months of age. Foals are more prone to worm infestation than adult horses. We usually recommend giving them Strongid-P every four weeks from one month of age until seven months old, when they can be treated according to the regime overleaf. Pregnant or lactating mares can be treated as for other adult horses; Equest and Equest Pramox are both now licensed in pregnant and lactating mares.

