

# Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



[www.wmvets.co.uk](http://www.wmvets.co.uk)

June 2018

## Wright & Morten Strategic Worming Plan

The advice and best practice approach to worming our horses has evolved over the years, as our knowledge has developed, and more clinical evidence and technologies have come to the fore. We also know that worming advice can be complex and often contradictory.



To assist our clients in this potentially confusing yet essential element of caring for our horses, we have designed a Strategic Worming Plan based on what we believe is current best practice.

### The cornerstones of our plan are to:

- ✓ Avoid over worming our horses with chemicals they don't need,
- ✓ Create a plan that monitors and treats high worm burdens as necessary,
- ✓ Provide our patients with best practice solutions for great preventative healthcare.

### We have designed our Strategic Worming Plan with the following thoughts in mind:

- Over worming has become such an issue that worms are now resistant to many commonly used wormers. So, our plan is based around worm egg count testing. You only worm if your horse has a high worm burden.

- It's still important to worm over the winter with a wormer that targets small redworm that live in a horse's guts over the colder months.
- It's important to target tapeworm strategically. So, our program treats tapeworm once a year in the winter. And, we also test for tapeworm with the Equisal Saliva test in the Spring / Summer months.
- It needs to be affordable. So, our plan will provide your horse with a free wormer if his worm egg count is too high.

## Our Strategic Plan

Our plan will be tailored differently for everyone's individual circumstances, but is based on the following yearly calendar template:

### Month Strategy Target

<b>Month</b>	<b>November - January</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Worm with Equest Pramox
<b>Target</b>	Encysted small redworms and tapeworm
<b>Month</b>	<b>May</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Worm egg count
<b>Target</b>	Large roundworms
<b>Month</b>	<b>May - July</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Equisal saliva test
<b>Target</b>	Tapeworm
<b>Month</b>	<b>July</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Worm egg count
<b>Target</b>	Large roundworms
<b>Month</b>	<b>September</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Worm egg count
<b>Target</b>	Large roundworms

## How it works

Once you sign up to our Worming Plan, you will get a call from one of our Equine nurses who have trained as SQPs (Suitably Qualified Persons, to deliver worming advice and prescribe

wormers) to discuss your horse's individual yard circumstances and to help tailor a plan that suits yourselves. Please weight your horse. The easiest way is with a weigh tape.



After this we will send you a pack with a year's supply of consumables. This will include your winter wormer, sample containers for the worm egg counts and tapeworm tests as well as gloves, plastic bags, submission forms and pre-paid envelopes. All you then need to do is post back your horse's faecal samples to our Freepost address at Somerford Park Farm at the correct strategic time of year. Between May and July you would send the Equisal saliva test to an external laboratory with the provided envelope.

Once we have analysed the samples, we will call you with the results. You will receive worming advice based on your own individual circumstances from one of our vets or nurses.

The price for your yearly Worming Plan is £84 for all horses under 700kg in weight, with a 10% discount for subsequent horses owned by the same person. **We will provide additional round wormers free of charge on this plan.** There is a £25 supplement for horses over 700kg.

## Worm egg counts

We use standard Macmaster lab tests to identify worm eggs within your horse's droppings. This is the best method to detect large roundworm eggs. It doesn't detect pinworms, tapeworms or small redworms. We ask you to send us your horse's droppings to our lab and we will call you once the sample has been analysed.

## The benefits of our scheme

- ✓ Uses up to date knowledge of worming to provide an eco-friendly approach to worm control.
- ✓ Uses less chemicals than fixed interval treatments, and prevents your horse being given medicines he doesn't need.
- ✓ Provides evidence that your worming control is effective.
- ✓ Identifies horses carrying strains of resistant worms.
- ✓ Suitable for horses living individually or as part of small or large groups.

## Worms and Worming

Guidance on the best ways to control worms in horses has changed a lot in recent years. Worms are becoming resistant to the drugs that are in some of our wormers, and the more we use these drugs, the more the development of these resistant worms increases. There are only four different drugs that are currently used in equine wormers so it is very important that we preserve their effectiveness by using them responsibly.

The modern way to worm horses is to have a plan for each individual horse that includes regular worm egg counts and to worm for specific worms that don't show in worm egg counts at certain times of year.

### Worm Egg Counts (Strongyle & Ascarids)



Worm egg counts detect levels of Strongyle and Ascarid worms and should ideally be carried out every 8 - 12 weeks during the grazing season (**March to October**) Horses are then treated according to the results. Horses with a worm egg count above 200 eggs per gram should be treated.

### Encysted Small Redworm (Cyathostomes)

Small red worms are the most common and dangerous parasitic threat to horses' health. They reproduce in large numbers and the larvae burrow into the gut wall where they hibernate (encyst). Large burdens of encysted redworm that emerge from the gut can cause diarrhoea, colic and can even be fatal, especially in young horses. Large numbers of encysted redworm can be present in horse's guts but because they do not produce eggs they cannot be detected in faecal worm counts.

Encysted redworm should be targeted once yearly in late autumn or early winter using a single dose of Moxidectin (**Equest/Equest Pramox**) or a 5 day course of Fenbendazole (**Panacur 5 day guard**). However, there is known resistance in small redworm to Fenbendazole.

## Tapeworm



Tapeworm do not show up in faecal worm egg counts so therefore should be targeted twice yearly (usually spring & autumn) with praziquantel (**Equest pramox, Equimax, Noropraz, Eqvalan Duo**) or a double dose of Pyrantel (**Strongid P**). There is a blood test and saliva test which can be used to test for tapeworm in horses, which can be used yearly in spring time to detect levels.

## Bots

Bots do not show up in faecal worm counts but should be treated annually after the 'first frost'. Most wormers treat bots.

## Pinworms

Pinworms do not cause a problem to the horse's digestive system or cause any internal damage, however the eggs that are laid around the anus can cause irritation that can lead to infection.

If a pinworm problem is suspected then a worm egg count is unlikely to show the eggs because they are not laid in the droppings. Most equine wormers are effective against pinworm.

## Pasture Management



Managing your pasture in the right way can improve the quality of the grazing and reduce the number of worm eggs that your horse can pick up.

The more horses you have grazing in any one area the greater the potential worm output and infestation. If your horse does not have access to sufficient grass they will graze the rough areas, near droppings, where there is a higher concentration of worm eggs increasing the likelihood of your horse ingesting worm eggs. One horse per acre of grazing land is usually ideal.

Poo picking every 2-3 days reduces the potential contamination from larvae.

Rest pastures, however this is not always possible especially on busy livery yards where grazing is limited. Consider grazing horses with other animals such as cattle and sheep. Most horse worms will not infect cattle and sheep and vice versa, and they are very good at 'hoovering' horse pasture.

Worm egg count all new horses and worm them accordingly and keep them off the pasture for 48 hrs.

### FARM AND EQUINE

The Barn, Holly Tree Farm, Holmes Chapel Road  
Lower Withington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DT

Tel: 08458 330034 or 01477 571000

Email: [hollytree@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:hollytree@wmvets.co.uk)

