



CONFUSED ABOUT WORMING HORSES?

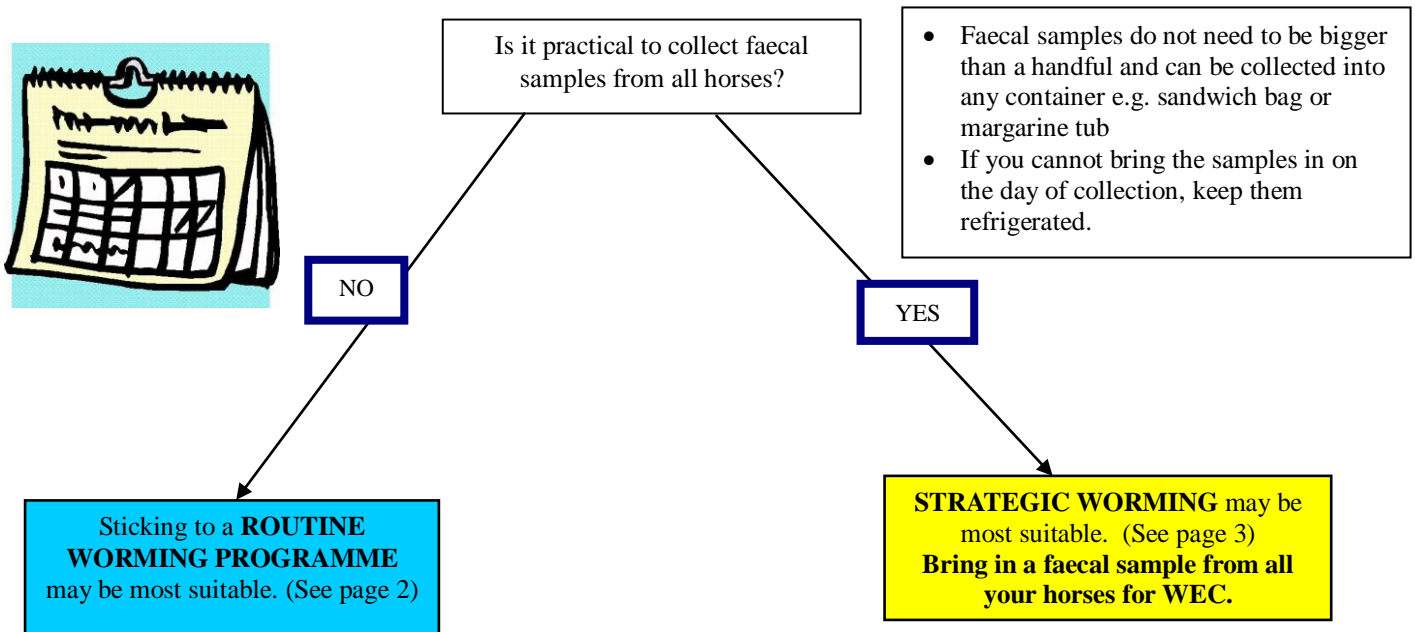
There are two different methods of worming your horse – using a routine worming programme, or worming strategically.

Routine worming means you worm your horse throughout the year, at the interval described by the wormer you have chosen to use.

Strategic worming means you only worm your horse if a faecal (dung) sample indicates that they have a high worm burden.

The enclosed information will help you decide which method will suit your horses and how to implement each programme.

WHICH WORMING METHOD IS MOST SUITABLE FOR YOUR HORSE?



ROUTINE WORMING PROGRAMME

Chose a wormer for the year from one of the drug groups below and use it throughout the year at the recommended intervals.

- Avermectins e.g. ivermectin or moxidectin based wormers
- Pyrantel based wormers
- Benzimidazoles e.g. fenbendazole based wormers

Remember tapeworm treatment in the spring and autumn. The autumn dose of tapeworm treatment is best timed after the first frost, and can often be combined with worming for small redworm encysted larvae (see insert).

Remember small redworm larvicidal dose between November and January

Equest
5 days of Panacur Guard



Foals

- Worm at 2 and 6 weeks of age with Panacur paste if high risk of worm exposure
- Worm at 12 weeks if foal is in a low risk situation
- Keep foaling boxes disinfected
- Tapeworm treatment should only be necessary from the autumn of the year of birth (spring if the foal is very late)

Is your worming working?

- Check how your worming programme is working by collecting a fresh dropping sample 2 weeks after worming and bringing it into the practice for a worm egg count (WEC).
- A blood sample is required to test for tapeworms and to show tapeworm levels in the previous 12 weeks.



STRATEGIC WORMINGTHE WAY FORWARD?

Strategic worming means you only worm the horse if the faecal worm egg count (WEC) is greater than 200 eggs per gram. It has been suggested that a low worm burden encourages the horse to improve its own immunity against worms.

If the horse does not require worming, a repeat sample is taken 12 weeks from the original sample. If the samples continue to be negative the intervals between sampling can be increased.



Faecal sample

Advantages of strategic worming:-

Cost effective – only treat those that need worming

Less resistance – worms are not exposed to excessive worming drugs so take longer to become resistant to the drugs

Environmentally friendly – less build up of drugs on the pasture

If you decide to use strategic worming, do bear in mind that:-

All horses need to have repeated WEC

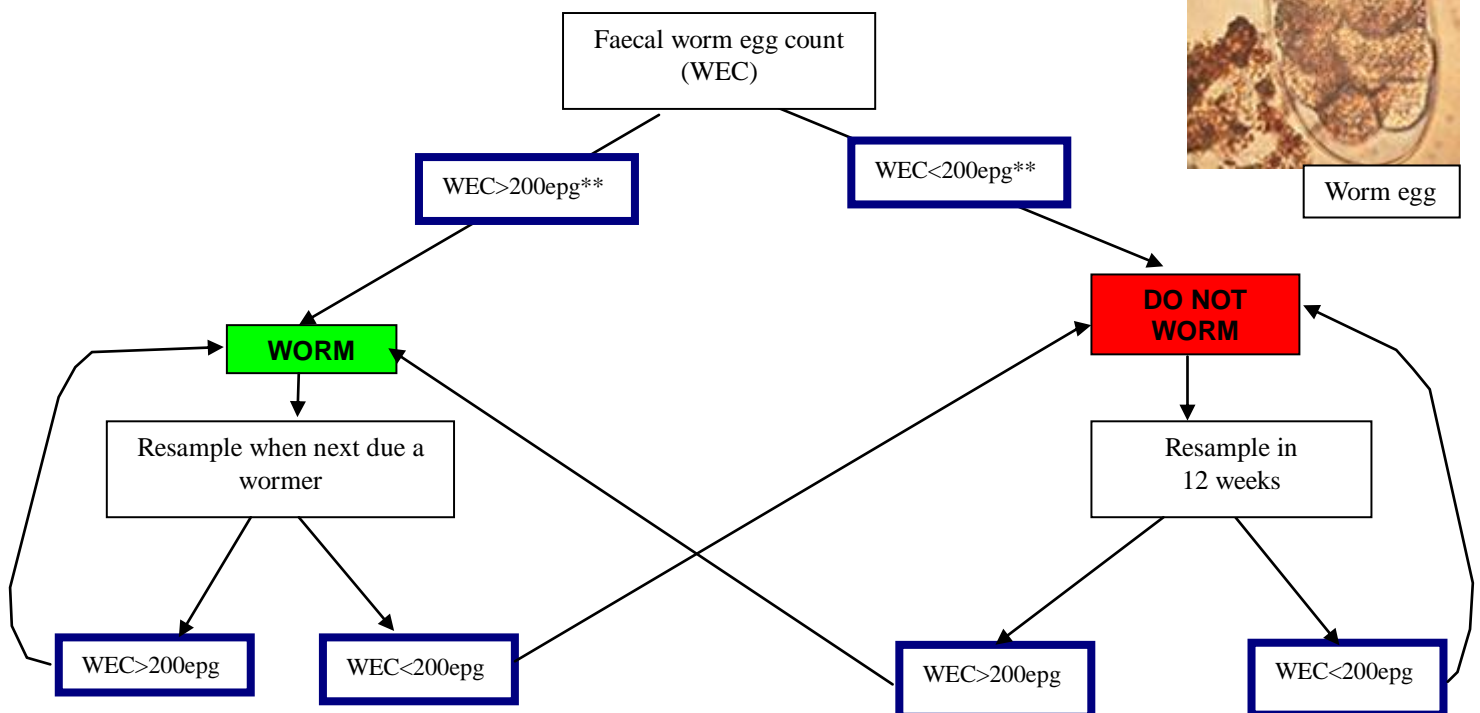
Youngstock have less natural resistance to parasites so regular sampling is vital

Tapeworm levels not assessed – either worm in spring and autumn for tapeworm or use blood samples to detect tapeworm infection

Small redworm encysted larvae not assessed - use a larvicidal dose once yearly between November and January



Worm egg



The majority of worm burden is contained within a minority of horses. This means that many horses repeatedly have negative faecal samples and do not need worming for prolonged periods.

OPTIMISING ANY HORSE WORM CONTROL PROGRAMME

Use correct dose for weight

A weighing tape can be used to give an indication of a horse's weight if you don't have access to horse scales. Ashbrook Equine Hospital has horse scales so if you want an accurate weight, contact us for a free and accurate measurement. It is better to overestimate the weight than underestimate!

Breed type/Height – a rough guide to weights

Mature Shetland	-	100kg
12.2hh pony	-	250-300kg
Donkey	-	250-300kg
14.2 pony	-	400kg
15.2hh TB	-	450-500kg
15hh Cob	-	550kg
16.2hh TB	-	550 - 600kg
16.2hh Hunter	-	600-650kg
Shires/Clydesdales	-	800kg



New arrivals to the yard

- worm as arrive for all parasites
- ideally isolate for 7 days in a stable or separate paddock so any worms excreted do not become a new resident population

Remember other infectious diseases require approximately 2 weeks of isolation
e.g. strangles, ringworm, herpes virus, equine influenza.

Pick up droppings

- **At least twice weekly**
- Especially important if on restricted grazing as worm larvae migrate from droppings onto the surrounding grass

Paddock rotation

- Rest pasture for at least 3 months if possible
- Clean pasture reduces the worm burden the horse is exposed to
- Do be aware if the horse/pony is prone to laminitis or tying up

Graze with sheep or cattle

- Horse worms are unable to survive in these animals

It can be useful to mark a calendar to plan the next date of worming or worm egg count.



HORSE WORMING DRUGS AVAILABLE

The following table shows you the worming drugs available and their duration of action. It must be noted that duration of action differs between drugs, as do the parasites targeted.

Trade name	Active ingredient	Duration of Action	Action
EQUEST	MOXIDECTIN	13 weeks	Kills all except tapeworm Effective against encysted small redworm larvae Can be used from 4 months old
EQUALAN	IVERMECTIN	8 weeks	Kills all except encysted small redworm larvae and tapeworm
VECTIN	IVERMECTIN	8 weeks	
ERAQUELL	IVERMECTIN	8 weeks	
STRONGID P	PYRANTEL TARTRATE	4 weeks	Double dose kills tapeworm Can be used from 8 weeks old
PYRATYPE	PYRANTEL TARTRATE	4 weeks	Kills round worms Does not kill bots or encysted small redworm larvae
EQUITAPE	PRAZIQUANTEL		Tapeworm only
EQUALAN DUO	PRAZIQUANTEL & IVERMECTIN	8 weeks	Kills all at single dose, except encysted small redworm larvae Can be used from 2 weeks old
EQUIMAX	PRAZIQUANTEL & IVERMECTIN	8 weeks	
EQUEST PRAMOX	PRAZIQUANTEL & MOXIDECTIN	13 weeks	Kills all at a single dose Can be used from 6.5 months old
PANACUR GUARD	FENBENDAZOLE	4 weeks	5 day course kills Encysted small redworm larvae, but there is some resistance. Does not kill tapeworm.

Pregnant mares should be wormed or sampled normally throughout pregnancy; however, we would advise they are wormed 3-4 weeks before foaling. Care must be taken that the wormer chosen is suitable for pregnant mares, e.g. Equimax, Equest, or Pyratape P.



SAMPLE YARD PLAN FOR WORMING

Horse name			
Month			
January			
February	Worm Egg Count	Worm Egg Count	Worm Egg Count
March			
April			
May	Worm Egg Count & Tapeworm dose	Worm Egg Count & Tapeworm dose	Worm Egg Count & Tapeworm dose
June			
July			
August	Worm Egg Count	Worm Egg Count	Worm Egg Count
September			
October			
November	Equest Pramox	Equest Pramox	Equest Pramox
December			

You can also use this chart to mark routine vaccinations, routine dentals and other important dates.