



Care for Life

Equine

Worming

Guide

**Includes recommended worming
programme on back page**

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Resistance to Wormers

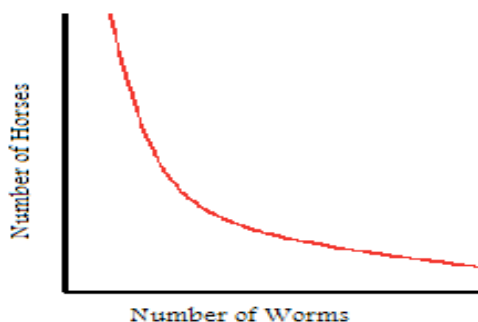
In recent years, resistance to worming products has become more common, particularly in small redworm (cyathostomin) populations. This is now widely regarded as a serious problem because there are no new products to turn to if worms develop resistance to the drugs currently on the market. Resistance is the result of over usage of wormers as part of the traditional 'Interval Dosing' worming programmes. The best way to slow down the development of resistance is to minimise the use of wormers. This is achieved in two ways:



- 1) **Good pasture management** - regular collection of droppings is the safest and most economical way to reduce the worm burden of your horse and therefore reduce the need for worming products.
- 2) Measuring the worm burden of your horse with worm egg counts and deworming accordingly when required.

Distribution of worms

It is normal for all horses to carry a small number of intestinal parasites. However it is a common misconception that all horses grazing the same pasture will have a similar worm burden. Studies have shown that within a herd, 80% of the worms live in 20% of the horses.



This means that many horses are being over treated with worming products, contributing to the spread of resistance and costing money where it could be saved.

Therefore it is essential to consider each horse individually when deciding on a worming program and targeting treatment at those that specifically need it.

Worm Egg Counts.

Worm egg counts can be used to identify the horses that are carrying a high worm burden and contaminating the pasture. These horses are treated with a worming product and the other horses are left **untreated**. This reduces the use of worming products and therefore the likelihood of resistance on the yard. It is recommended that worm egg counts are initially done at 3 month intervals. It is important to remember that worm egg counts only detect adult worms and are not sensitive to tapeworm. A tapeworm product should be used in all grazing horses once per year, regardless of worm egg count results. If you have not been in control of the horse's worm program continuously over a two year period a larvicidal treatment should also be given annually (see overleaf).

Worm egg counts are simple

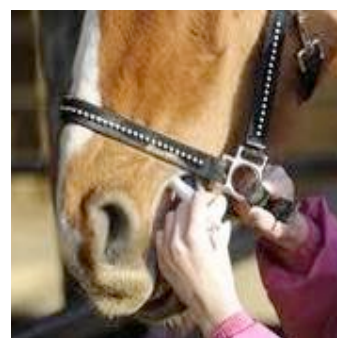
Follow the simple steps below to start using worm egg count results to effectively manage worms in your horses:

1. If you have more than one horse it is important that you carry out the following steps for each individual horse and do not mix samples together.
2. Collect 1 or 2 dropping from your horses faeces.
3. Place the droppings into a plastic bag or container, and label with the horses name and your surname.
4. Print and complete a submission form for a faecal worm egg count form the equine advice sheets section on our website www.tcvets.co.uk (if you do not have access to the internet this form can be completed at the practice).
5. Bring the samples into the surgery with the completed form, within 4 to 6 hours of collection.



Worm egg count results

You will receive a phone call from either a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse within 24 to 48 hours of dropping the sample of at the practice. The results will have been calculated into eggs per gram. The results chart below indicates how many eggs per gram are required for the test to be significantly positive and deworming to be required.



Number of Eggs per Gram	Significance	Treatment required
0 - 100 e/g	Negative	No treatment required. A Veterinary Nurse will phone and inform you of this result. Another worm egg count should be completed in 3 months time.
100 - 200 e/g	Negative	No treatment required. A Veterinary Nurse will phone and inform you of this result. Another worm egg count should be completed in 3 months time.
≥ 200 e/g	Positive	Worming is required. A Veterinary Surgeon will phone to discuss worming and give recommendations of what wormers should be used at the current time of year.

It is essential that we complete more than one worm egg count, as a one off test is not 100% reliable. Repeating the test at 3 monthly intervals allows our veterinary surgeons to build a clear and more accurate picture of your horse's worm burden, providing effective worming advice.

Recommended Worming Calendar

Month	Recommended worming advice.
November/December	Worm with a larvicidal product (Moxidectin or fenbendazole wormer) to treat encysted redworms. Also treat for tapeworm using a Praziquantel product or double dose of Pyrantel.
March	WORM EGG COUNT <i>Test each individual horse by using the worm egg count program and worm according to the results.</i>
June	WORM EGG COUNT <i>Test each individual horse by using the worm egg count program and worm according to the results.</i>
September	WORM EGG COUNT <i>Test each individual horse by using the worm egg count program and worm according to the results.</i>
November/December	Worm as for last November/December.

Recommended Wormers

The example wormers below are suitable for use within the recommended worming calendar plan shown above. The trade names and active ingredients are clearly outlined for each recommended wormer.

- ∞ **Equest** – *Moxidectin*
- ∞ **Equest Pramox** – *Praziquantel and Moxidectin combined*
- ∞ **Panacur Equine Guard** – *Fenbendazole*
- ∞ **Equitape** – *Praziquantel*
- ∞ **Strongid P** – *Pyrantel*

Remember that the most effective and economical way to minimise the need for wormers is with good management practices:

- ∞ **Do not overstock**
- ∞ **Regularly remove droppings from pasture (minimum of twice weekly)**
- ∞ **Correct dosing is essential. Many people under estimate their horses weight and incorrect dosing can cause resistance. Use a weigh tape if you are unsure**

Do your part to help slow the spread of resistance to wormers.

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