

Our summary advice points for worming your horse:

The aim is to reduce the eggs/infective larvae on our pasture and limit our use of anthelmintics (dewormers) by using a proactive and not reactive approach. This includes performing faecal worm egg counts before giving any deworming products.

We are also experiencing global resistance to majority of our worming products. Every time we deworm a horse, the number of resistant worms increases. These worms reproduce and create a worm population which becomes resistant, and so the drugs no longer work.

To slow down resistance we can perform worm egg counts and minimise the worm burden (management of pastures).

Faecal worm egg counts (FVEC):

- Perform faecal worm egg counts from foals at 4 months old into adulthood throughout the grazing season- **We suggest March (once the temperature has warmed up), June and September.**
- When collecting FVEC, collect from multiple droppings <12h old if possible or if not then multiple parts of one dropping, and expel air from the bag or container you collect them in. Keep cool and bring to us ASAP.

It is especially important to perform FVEC on new horses, young horses and breeding stock.



Tapeworm testing

- Perform a saliva test for Tapeworm at least once a year (autumn and spring) and only worm for tapeworms if indicated.
- Ideally, use a praziquantel wormer not a double dose of pyrantel if tapeworm treatment is required.



If your horse requires worming:

- **Give your horse the correct dose**, if your horse does require deworming treatment ensure that you **WEIGH TAPE** your horse before to ensure the correct dose is given. Underdosing will increase the risk of resistance to the product.
- **Keep stabled after worming** for 48 hours and remove droppings away from water supplies due to environmental toxicity. If unable to do so poo pick at least once a day for the 3 days that follow worming, then dispose of this manure away from water courses to avoid leaching into land from rainwater due to the toxicity to invertebrates.
- **Repeat a FWEC 10-14 days after** you have dewormed your horse to ensure it has worked effectively.

**Key pasture management tips**

- Use a coordinated approach on a livery yard – we are happy to oversee this and come to your yard to talk through how best to do this!
- Poo pick at least twice a week. Do not harrow or spread this on any pasture to be grazed- the eggs can live for months, despite frost and sunshine!
- Keep manure piles at least 10m away from any water source on flat ground (30m on sloped ground).
- Quarantine new horses, ideally obtaining a FWEC sample before arriving at the yard.



To assess your own risk, use www.canterforhorses.org.uk to assess your adult horse's risk: Low/Medium/High