

A Simple Guide to Worming

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TOR EQUINE
VETERINARY PRACTICE



This month Tor Equine Vet, Meisha, has popped together this helpful guide with information, advice and top tips for providing gold standard worming care for your horses and ponies.

As always, if you have any questions, you are more than welcome to contact the team on 01626 819597.

For more comprehensive information, take a look at our factsheets on our website- <https://www.torequinevets.co.uk/fact-sheets/>

Spring

First FWEC* (ideally late February/early March).

If your horse is in the 'high risk' category then perform a Tapeworm Saliva (this can be done by owners at home – no vet needed) OR Blood test (Vet needed).

What test and when?

3 FAECAL WORM EGG COUNTS - FWEC											
1			2			3					
TAPEWORM SALIVA/ BLOOD TEST If high risk: Test 2x yearly, spring and Autumn						TAPEWORM SALIVA/BLOOD TEST If low risk: Test once yearly, in Autumn					
ENCYSTED REDWORM BLOOD TEST											
Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Take a look at page 2 to see if you think your horse may be high risk

***Top Tip: Tie the blood test in with Autumn dentals or vaccinations.**

Collecting a sample for a Faecal Worm Egg Count

A disposable glove, clear resealable bag or sample pot are all you need to collect a sample. A sample needs to be from fresh dropping and preferably a pinch from two or more dropping piles. About as much as would fit into the palm of your hand is adequate for testing. Samples can be dropped into the Tor Equine office at Beech Trees, or posted to us at;

Tor Equine Veterinary Practice
Beech Trees, Buckland Rd, Newton Abbot TQ12 4SA



*FWEC- Faecal Worm Egg Count- The test we do to assess your horse/pony's worm burden.

Summer

Second FWEC*

Good pasture management essential – such as 'Poo-Picking'

If your Spring or Summer faecal worm egg counts are high we recommend worming with an Ivermectin or pyrantel based wormer.

Autumn

Third FWEC* – if this is low then we recommend a blood test for Encysted Redworm.

Tapeworm Saliva or Blood Test

Encysted redworm blood test – If you do not want to have an encysted blood test done, we recommend worming with a Moxidectin based wormer. If your tapeworm test comes back positive then we recommend worming with a moxidectin and praziquantel combined product.

Winter*

If low FWEC in Autumn or if your horse was not wormed in the Autumn, we recommend you perform an Encysted redworm blood test.



How do I know which worms my horse needs testing/treating for?

Redworm (Strongyles)

We advise three **faecal worm egg counts** from Spring to Summer, around 12 weeks apart (March, June, September). Ideally wait at least 8 weeks after last worming treatment before doing an egg worm count to avoid false results, unless doing a reduction test to see if the wormer has been effective (see our factsheet for more information).

Worms produce fewer eggs during the winter, so a FWEC is a less reliable indicator of a worm burden (some larval stages encyst in the wall of the small intestine which aren't picked up by FWEC). This can only be diagnosed by an **Encysted Redworm Blood test** which should be done between September and December.

Tapeworm

If your horse is at low risk of being exposed to tapeworm you only need to **test for Tapeworm** once a year, in the Autumn. If your horse is at high risk, we advise testing twice a year. Praziquantel is the recommended drug to treat for Tapeworm, but we recommend testing your horse before worming as Tapeworm are present in less than 50% of horses. Small numbers of tapeworms are not harmful and disease associated with tapeworms is rare. A test for tapeworm is easy and can either be done by Richard or Meisha taking a **blood sample, or by a home DIY Saliva Kit**, saving you a veterinary visit. Please speak to Holly to get one posted to you.

Classifying horses into risk categories can help determine the frequency of testing or worming.

Factors suggesting low risk	Factors suggesting moderate risk	Factors indicating high risk
Poo picking >2x a week	Occasional poo picking	No poo picking
5-15 years old	>5 years old	Grazing with youngstock
Previous low FWEC/tapeworm	Low-moderate FWEC	Previous high FWEC
Companions have low FWEC	Companions have low to moderate FWEC	Companions have high FWEC/tapeworm
Low stocking density	Medium stocking density	High stocking density
Stable population (no new arrivals)	Occasional movement of horses	High movement in yard/between paddocks
Good pasture management		Poor pasture management
Good quarantine of new arrivals		No quarantine of new arrivals
No history of colic		History of colic

Know your wormers!

Confused about which wormer you need? Here is a helpful table which explains the active ingredient in each product.

Equest Pramox	Moxidectin and Praziquantel
Equest	Moxidectin
Equimax	Ivermectin and Praziquantel
Eqvalan/Alomec/Eraquell/Bimectin	Ivermectin
Strongid P/Alonate P/Embotape	Pyrantel