

# Horse deworming schedule

Vets now recommend diagnostic-led parasite control programs for horses in order to prevent the effects of worms whilst minimising the development of resistance. You can use the annual calendar below to check which worms to test for and treat at each time of year, and the recommended treatment for each type of worm. Speak to your vet or prescriber to discuss the most appropriate treatment for your horse.



| SPRING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |       |     | SUMMER |      |        | AUTUMN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |         |          | WINTER   |         |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|--------|------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| March                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | April | May | June   | July | August | September                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | October | November | December | January | February |
| March – November: Focus on redworms <sup>‡</sup> .<br>FEC* every 8 weeks <b>HIGH RISK</b> or 12 weeks <b>LOW RISK</b> . Treat if high FEC with <b>pyrantel</b> or <b>ivermectin</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |       |     |        |      |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |         |          |          |         |          |
| Spring: Focus on tapeworms.<br>Tapeworm test: <b>HIGH RISK</b> horses.<br>Treat if positive with <b>praziquantel</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |       |     |        |      |        | Autumn/Winter: Focus on encysted redworms <sup>‡</sup> in high risk horses.<br><b>HIGH RISK</b> Consider <b>moxidectin</b> or 5 day <b>fenbendazole</b> .<br><b>LOW RISK</b> Disease rare, deworming likely unnecessary. If not dewormed all year, consider strategic treatment with <b>ivermectin</b> to manage large strongyles, bots, etc. |         |          |          |         |          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |       |     |        |      |        | Autumn: Focus on tapeworms.<br>Tapeworm test: All horses.<br>Treat if positive with <b>praziquantel</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |         |          |          |         |          |
| <b>HIGH RISK</b> <b>Foals</b> : Treat for roundworms <sup>†</sup> (Ascarids) at 2-3 months. Test/treat for roundworms <sup>†</sup> & redworms <sup>‡</sup> at 4-5 months and 7-8 months.<br><b>HIGH RISK</b> <b>Yearlings</b> : Test/treat for roundworms <sup>†</sup> & redworms <sup>‡</sup> every 8 weeks.<br>Treat roundworms <sup>†</sup> with <b>fenbendazole</b> or <b>pyrantel</b> ; treat redworms <sup>‡</sup> with <b>ivermectin</b> or <b>pyrantel</b> . |       |     |        |      |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |         |          |          |         |          |
| All year: implement management practices to minimise worm burdens.<br>i.e. poo pick twice weekly, test/treat/quarantine new horses, minimise stocking density, co-graze with ruminants, keep dung heap away from pasture, rest/rotate paddocks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |       |     |        |      |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |         |          |          |         |          |

## Assessing a horse's parasite risk profile

| Risk Factors     | Age                                                                | Stocking density                      | Pasture management      | Grazing group               | Poo picking routine                         | FEC results                                                 | Herd stability                      | New arrival quarantine        | Clinical/medical history                                                                                   |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HIGH RISK</b> | Young (<6 years)<br>Elderly (>20 years) may have an increased risk | High stocking density (<1 acre/horse) | Poor pasture management | Grazing with youngstock     | Infrequent or no poo picking                | Repeated high faecal egg counts & tapeworm antibody results | Frequent movements in & out of herd | No quarantine procedure       | History of worm-related disease, colic or resistance to dewormers<br>Co-existing disease such as Cushing's |
| <b>LOW RISK</b>  | Adult (6-20 years)                                                 | Low stocking density (>2 acres/horse) | Good pasture management | Not grazing with youngstock | Regular poo picking (at least twice a week) | Repeated low faecal egg counts & tapeworm antibody results  | Closed herd (minimal new arrivals)  | Quarantine procedure in place | No history of worm-related disease, colic or resistance to dewormers                                       |



References:  
1. CANTER Guidelines (First Edition). 2024, <http://canterforhorses.org.uk/guidelines>  
2. Rendle et al (2024) BEVA primary care clinical guidelines: Equine parasite control. EWJ 1-32  
3. BEVA ProtectMeToo Toolkit: [www.beva.org.uk/Resources/Medicines/Anthelmintic-Toolkit](http://www.beva.org.uk/Resources/Medicines/Anthelmintic-Toolkit)  
\*FEC Faecal worm egg count, FECRT Faecal egg count reduction test. Deworming treatment should be guided by a risk assessment and the results of testing, and adapted to individual circumstances. Treatment efficacy should be confirmed annually with a FECRT\* ("drench test") 2 weeks after deworming. A number of active ingredients are available, these recommendations are a guide based on expert guidelines and common resistance patterns.  
‡ Redworm resistance: fenbendazole (very common), pyrantel (common), ivermectin/moxidectin (emerging).  
† Roundworm (Ascarid) resistance: ivermectin/moxidectin (common), fenbendazole/pyrantel (increasing).  
From the makers of Eqvalan® oral paste for horses and Eqvalan Duo® oral paste (UK only).  
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TEST and treat if necessary  
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