



SOME DO'S AND DON'T'S FOR AGISTORS AND MANAGERS OF SMALL AND LARGE HORSE HERDS

DO....	DON'T....
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use faecal egg count testing (FECs) to obtain baseline data for each horse on the property.Identify the low (<200 EPG), medium (200- 49 EPG) and high shedders (> 500 EPG) in the herd – this may remain consistent over time.Treat 'high shedders' and monitor these horses regularly through FECs.Undertake a reduction test (FECRT) if high egg-shedding persists, this will check whether the horse has a population of resistant worms.Before arrival, all new-comers to the herd should have both FEC – treatment - FECRT – the rationale for this is to prevent the accidental introduction of resistant strongyles to the pasture.Choose a worming treatment with proven efficacy against the type of worm to be targeted (DPI's <i>Guide to Horse Wormers</i> can be downloaded from EBW website);Estimate the weight of the horse as accurately as possible before selecting the correct quantity of anthelmintic to administer. Remember – under-dosing leads to resistance.Treat at the appropriate time for bots and/or tapeworms (best in late autumn), particularly if there is evidence of bot flies and Oribatid mites (intermediate host of tapeworm) – your vet will know if you are in a tapeworm area.Remember - when the grass is growing the worms will be on the move!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overstock – most horses will avoid grazing 'roughs' where the highest infective worm populations are if they are given enough room to do so.Treat the herd immediately prior to moving horses to a new pasture. This practice has the potential of selecting for resistant worms if they are present, thereby contaminating the fresh pasture with resistant worms.Rotate anthelmintics between the chemical groups without an understanding of the efficacy of the active ingredients against the parasite you wish to target.Administer anthelmintics routinely – base all treatments on evidence or upon veterinary advice.Hesitate to obtain veterinary advice if your horse is showing any signs of ill-thrift – DON'T RELY ON FECs to discount parasites as a possible cause.treat horses during periods of low refugia (non-resistant worms) in the pasture (hot dry summer, cold frosty winter) unless there is a clear, evidence-based reason to do so;Use a single, standard treatment regime for all horses in the herd. Horses have different immune systems and therefore they will have a range of egg-shedding potentials.Cross the line between FECs for combating worm resistance and veterinary advice. Be cautious about giving advice for intestinal parasite management – the role of 'FEC-sters' starts at the exit – identifying those horses that have the potential to contaminate the pasture with parasitic strongyle eggs!

Need further information? Call us or email – info@evidencebasedworming.com.au

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