



NOTES ON WORM MANAGEMENT FOR HORSE BREEDERS

CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED TREATMENT	OTHER KEY POINTS	NOTES
MARES IN FOAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not treat in early pregnancy in case foetus is affected Treatment with a ML some time before foaling (during early spring) will also treat for <i>Strongyloides westerii</i> 	<i>Strongyloides westerii</i> is rarely a cause of diarrhea in young foals if mares have been treated with a ML in early spring.	
FOALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start treating from 3 months of age, NOT earlier Treat using BZs and Pyrantels – very safe to use in foals#; MLs* are no longer efficacious against **<i>P. equorum</i> Treat foals for Roundworms in the first year Treat at least 4 times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 months 6 months (at weaning) 9 months (treat targeting strongyles) 12 months (treat to target strongyles) from 12 months, treatment should be for strongyles add treatment (Praziquantel) for <i>Anoplocephala</i> (tapeworm) in late autumn (end of grazing season) - treat for bots, late autumn, early spring in 2nd year onwards at weaning do a FEC to determine which group of worms are the problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascarids (roundworm) pre-patent period is 2.5-3 months – therefore treat from this time Do FEC at weaning to determine what parasites are present and target treatment for these parasites Turn weanlings out onto the cleanest pastures 	<p>*Macrocyclic Lactone, ie a ‘mectin’.</p> <p>** <i>Parascaris equorum</i> = Ascarids = Roundworm</p> <p>Pyrantel Pamoate – a depolarizing, neuromuscular blocking agent – causes paralysis of worms, causing them to let go.</p> <p># Strategy-T: Oxfendazole and Pyrantel</p>
YEARLINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> begin treating for Cyathostomins treatments 4 x a year (the yearlings will be wormy) can treat for both Strongyles and Ascarids this year, using a mectin with a BZ, eg, Equitak Excel or E-Mox Pro 	Ascarid issues are usually behind them (ie, resistance has been developed) unless they have not been dealt with in the first year.	Cyathostomins are small Strongyles or blood worms. They are the main parasite species monitored through faecal egg counts.
MATURE HORSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on controlling Cyathostomins Treat LESS in summer and during a freezing winter Treat MORE in spring or when conditions favour egg-laying Do regular FECs until you know the benchmark for each horse in the herd 	One or two treatments per year should suffice, depending on climatic conditions (ie depending on the frequency of favourable conditions)	Horses with frequent low, or nil egg counts should still be treated once a year for bots and tapeworm. For Tapeworm include a product with Praziquantel. Treatment in late autumn will help protect dung beetles.
OTHER	TREAT ALL YOUNGSTERS (up to 3.5-4 y.o.) AS HIGH-SHEDDERS. Youngsters are developing immunity and will therefore be wormy.		

(Source: AAEP Parasite Control Guidelines and other relevant scientific journal articles)