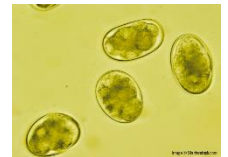


Worm Control Programme 2024/25

DISCLAIMER: Please note, our worming programme is based on guidelines produced by the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and is updated every year to reflect the latest research. It has been designed to suit our clients' yards in the Aberdeenshire region of Scotland, and it may not be appropriate for other areas. We strongly advise non-clients to speak to their own vets for advice on worming, as every yard and individual horse will require different management. This is a guide only and we must stress that no worming programme can completely guarantee to protect against worm related disease. Our aim is to target treatments to horses at a higher risk, whilst preserving the efficacy of the wormers available by avoiding unnecessary worming of horses which are considered low risk. This will slow the development of resistance, as well as reducing the environmental impact from wormers excreted in faeces. We offer tailored, free worming advice to our registered clients, only.

Key Notes:

Wormer dispensing: Wormers will only be dispensed following testing (WECs and Equisal Kits), except foals and when indicated for clinical cases.



Risk based assessment: Winter worming should be based on a risk assessment of individual horses and yards. Please note, we have not currently included the routine use of the redworm blood test, as we have tried to keep costs down and this test is not appropriate for every horse. There is a misconception that this test is specific for encysted redworm. Instead, it tests for exposure to redworm in general and gives us an idea of overall worm numbers. Therefore, there is no value testing a horse with high worm egg counts (WECs), because we already know their redworm status. Similarly, youngsters are likely to have higher encysted redworm burdens and testing is less likely to add value. Therefore, it is only suitable for horses with low WECs, to confirm the level of redworm exposure and give a more accurate idea of worm numbers. The test is also not useful within 4 months after worming, as antibodies can remain high for some time.

Pasture management:






- Dung should ideally be removed from pasture at least twice per week, especially during the summer months ($>10^{\circ}\text{C}$), with priority given to fields with youngstock ($<5\text{yo}$) and horses with a history of high WECs.
- Harrowing to control worms is counterproductive as it just spreads eggs around the entire field (this method only works in hot countries, whereby high temperatures kill the eggs – the UK is too cold for this).
- Cattle and sheep are brilliant for hoovering up equine worm eggs (they are not affected by these eggs) - consider rotation or co-grazing of fields.
- Rest fields for 6-12 months wherever possible to allow some of the eggs to die.
- It is no longer recommended to worm horses immediately before moving to new pasture as this can lead to the pasture becoming filled with only resistant eggs.



Wormer dosing:

- Administer 10% more than the horse's estimated (weigh tape) or actual weight (e.g. give a 550kg dose to a 500kg horse). This is important because underdosing can result in the development of wormer resistance.
- Our hospital scales are available to use at the practice free of charge for registered clients (slots must be pre-booked via the office).

Testing and worming timings 2024/25

Date	Action
<p>November / December 2024</p> 	<p>Equisal tapeworm saliva test for all horses. Please order 1+ week in advance if >10 kits are required. Alternatively, a blood sample is also available for tapeworm.</p> <p>Worm in December 2024 if required (see below), or early January if delayed for any reason.</p>
<p>December 2024 – January 2025</p> 	<p>Not all horses will require worming. All horses will need to be assessed by risk. To check which risk category your horse falls into and for specific wormers, please see following page.</p> <p>Low risk: No wormer (+/- tapeworm treatment)</p> <p>Medium risk: Ivermectin based wormer (+/- tapeworm)</p> <p>High risk: Moxidectin based wormer (+/- tapeworm)</p>
<p>March 2025</p> 	<p>Worm egg count (WEC) all horses. Please phone 1+ week in advance if dropping off >10 samples.</p> <p>If negative, no action. If positive (>500epg), treat with a single dose of Panacur (fenbendazole).</p> <p>This wormer is known to have resistance in many areas of the UK, so it is <u>essential</u> to repeat a WEC 2 weeks after worming with this drug, to check the status of your property. If it is effective, it is very useful information because we can then continue to use it on your yard, to avoid having to repeatedly use other wormers.</p>
<p>June 2025</p> 	<p>WEC all horses. Please phone 1+ week in advance if dropping off >10 samples.</p> <p>If negative, no action. If positive (>500epg), treat with Strongid-P (pyrantel).</p> <p>Ideally repeat WEC 2 weeks after worming to check for resistance.</p>
<p>September 2025</p> 	<p>WEC all horses. Please phone 1+ week in advance if dropping off >10 samples.</p> <p>If negative, no action. If positive (>500epg), treat with Eraquell (ivermectin).</p> <p>Ideally repeat WEC 2 weeks after worming to check for resistance.</p>

Winter Worming (Further info)

Tapeworm (Cestodes): Research shows only around 28% of UK horses have a high tapeworm burden and so we are encouraging the use of Equisal kits (or blood sampling) to determine if treatment is necessary. WECs are not reliable, due to the way in which the eggs are released.

Redworm (Cyathostomins/Strongyles): Redworm are the most commonly found worm during the grazing season and eggs are identified by WECs. Over winter, however, their larvae encyst ('hibernate') within the gut lining until springtime. If WECs throughout the year are low, then the risk of high encysted burdens in the winter is also likely to be low.

Winter worming risk categories: The below risk categories are a guideline only and decisions as to which category a horse belongs to will vary horse by horse and yard by yard. The overall aim is to reduce the development of resistance to wormers, especially moxidectin, which is the only drug effective against encysted redworm. It must be protected in order to avoid severe worm cases becoming untreatable in future.

Equisal Test Kits

Contain a swab to collect a saliva sample. This can be done yourself and most horses tolerate it well. The kit includes instructions and a freepost envelope.

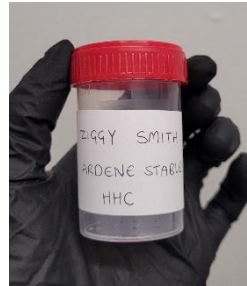
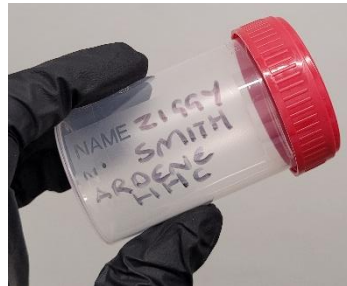


Low Risk Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 5-15yo • WECs in summer <300 • Poo picking at least once per week • Low stocking density • No grazing with youngsters (<5yo) • Fields rested or co-grazed/rotated with sheep/cattle • No history of worm related disease • Rarely new horses in field 	Negative Tapeworm Result	No wormer needed
		Positive Tapeworm Result	Worm with BOVA Praziquantel or as otherwise directed by vet
Medium Risk Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged >15yo • WECs in summer 300-500 • Poo picking less than once per week • Medium stocking density • Few youngsters • Some resting of fields • Occasional new horses in field • Cushing's 	Negative Tapeworm Result	Worm with Eraquell (Ivermectin)
		Positive Tapeworm Result	Worm with Equimax (Ivermectin and Praziquantel)
High Risk Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged <5yo • WECs in summer >500 • No poo picking/infrequent • High stocking density • Lots of youngstock • Fields not rested • Frequently new horses • History of worm related disease 	Negative Tapeworm Result	Worm with Equest (Moxidectin)
		Positive Tapeworm Result	Worm with Equest Pramox (Moxidectin and Praziquantel)

Note – WECs >500 and aged <5yo 'trump' other risk factors, i.e. a 2yo horse, or a horse with WECs >500 would automatically move into the high risk category, regardless of anything else. In comparison, we can be more lenient on other risk factors. E.g. if a horse has a consistent history of low WECs, but meets one or two higher risk criteria e.g. Cushing's or lack of poo picking, it may still be decided to keep the horse as 'low risk'.

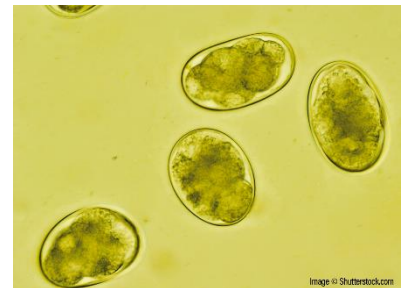
Worm Egg Count (WEC) Sampling Advice

1. Using a glove, collect approximately **5 samples from different areas of the dung (must be <12 hours old)**; the total amount submitted should be the size of a golf ball.
2. Place the dung into a sealed airtight pot/bag/glove (these can be collected from the practice if required).
3. Please label the container or bag **clearly** with the **horse's name**, the **owner's surname** and the **yard name** in a permanent marker. Please add **'HHC'** if the horse is a member of the Healthy Horse Club.



4. Place all samples into a clean bag **clearly** marked with the **yard name** in a permanent marker.
5. **Once samples are collected, please store them in a cool place and hand them in to our office within 24 hours.**
6. With large yards, it may be easier to submit the samples in groups. If that is the case please let us know there are more to follow, so we can await all the samples before sending out results.
7. We aim to report results within 3 working days.

**** For yards with over 10 horses, please call 1+ week ahead to arrange a suitable time for dropping off samples. This means we can ensure we have staff available to test the samples as soon as possible. ****



Exceptions

Exceptions	Action
<p>Foals</p> 	<p>Foals should be turned out onto 'clean' pasture which has ideally not been grazed by horses the previous year, especially youngstock or horses with high WECs (avoid using the same nursery paddocks year on year). Poo picking is essential.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At 3 months old, administer 1 single dose of Panacur (fenbendazole). 2. Perform a WEC between 4-5 months old. 3. Perform Equisal tapeworm test at around 6 months old (must be weaned at time of sampling). 4. For foals born early on in the year (before the start of April), perform a WEC at 7 months old to determine whether an additional wormer is required. For later born foals, this step is missed out, because the timing coincides with step 5. 5. For any foals born before 1st August, administer Equest (moxidectin) between Nov-Jan (must be >4 months old). If this coincides with the 6 month old Equisal tapeworm test, await the result before worming. This is because a positive result will mean an Equest Pramox may be given instead (must be >6.5 months old).
<p>Yearlings</p> 	<p>Yearlings can follow the adult worming programme. WECs are especially important at this age to assess worm burden and treat appropriately if required. They are particularly more susceptible to roundworm than adult horses and a different wormer to the general programme may be advised if roundworm eggs are identified.</p>
<p>Pregnant mares</p> 	<p>Follow the worming programme as usual. Additional treatment prior to foaling is no longer considered necessary if following a suitable programme. If a pregnant mare arrives with unknown worming history, perform a WEC (if April-October) and a tapeworm test (any time of year) as soon as able to do so.</p>
<p>New horses</p> 	<p>If arriving between March-October, perform WEC and Equisal tapeworm test before, or at arrival to the yard.</p> <p>If arriving between November-February, perform an Equisal tapeworm test before, or at arrival to the yard. Follow winter worming advice for which wormer to give based on encysted redworm risk and tapeworm result.</p>

Reminders regarding payments:

- Equisal kits and wormers must be paid for at, or prior to, the time of collection.
- Discounts for bulk Equisal kits and WECs will only apply if samples are submitted together and charges are paid through one account.

How much do WECs and Equisal kits cost (VAT inc)?

Equisal kits (includes lab fees, result reporting and postage):

- Single kit: £20.95
- 5+ kits: £19.96
- 20+ kits: £18.50

WECs (includes all in-house fees and result reporting):

- Single WEC: £11.90
- 5+ WECs: £10.90
- 20+ WECs: £9.90

***Please note the above prices are correct as of October 2024 for our registered clients, but are subject to change.**

***Healthy Horse Club
(HHC) Members:

3 x WECs

and

1 x Equisal Kit Included



Healthy Horse Club