



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

Autumn Worming

Worm Egg Counts:

- Continue 3 monthly testing
- You can coordinate your worm egg count with tapeworm testing so that if worming treatment is required they can be combined
- If you do not worm egg count, treat for encysted worms with a product containing Moxidectin in Autumn

Tapeworm Testing:

In the autumn we recommend testing for tapeworm which can't reliably be identified from the worm egg count of a faecal sample. The Equisal Saliva Test Kit measures antibodies to these tapeworm parasites from a sample of horse saliva. This is something you can collect yourself without the need for a veterinary visit. This testing is a standard part of our 'Worming Scheme' or can be requested and we will send you a swab.

Worming Scheme:

Our worming scheme offers fantastic value and worming advice. For only £60 per year, you will receive:

- 4 worm egg counts
- 1 tapeworm saliva test



Atypical Myopathy

Atypical myopathy is a severe and potentially fatal muscle disorder in horses that have eaten fallen sycamore seeds, or less frequently the sycamore seedlings which grow in the spring. These seeds and seedlings contain a toxin which alters the energy production of muscle cells, causing muscle weakness and other signs associated with it. The signs appear quickly and can affect individual horses, or a group, depending on numbers eaten and the individual susceptibility to the toxin. Often the disease is seen after a dramatic change in the weather such as heavy rain fall or wind.

The signs

Muscle weakness - soreness or stiffness, struggling to walk, problems standing, laboured breathing

Dullness/lethargy - low hanging head, reduced responsiveness, fatigued behaviour

Muscle trembling



- Unlimited worm egg count reduction tests
- 10% discount on any wormers required
- Unlimited worming advice

Please mention this to a vet at your next visit or call our office on 01328 86444 if you are interested.

Colic like symptoms - shivering, sweating, except the horse still has an appetite

Brown or dark red urine

Diagnosis

The disease can be confirmed from a clinical examination, grazing history and blood testing. The blood test will assess muscle enzyme activity and look for signs of damage.



Prevention

- Avoid grazing pastures with overhanging sycamore trees
- If remaining in pasture with sycamore trees is essential, fence off areas where seeds and leaves fall
- Clear fallen sycamore leaves, seeds and seedlings from grazing areas
- In the spring, mow/cut sycamore seedlings and removed the debris
- Provide clean, easily accessible water at all times
- Ensure access to adequate grass or supplementary forage during the autumn to discourage browsing on sycamore plants
- Reduce pasture stock density so that there is enough grazing for every horse

Treatment

Severely affected horses usually need to be admitted to a specialist equine hospital for intensive care, intravenous fluid therapy and anti-inflammatory treatment. If horses survive the first few days of treatment, they usually recover completely, although total recovery may take many months. When a case is suspected or diagnosed, other horses grazing the pasture should be removed and have blood samples taken for muscle enzyme analysis. Early identification and treatment hugely improve the prognosis for recovery.

