

CLARENDON EQUINE

EQUINE VETERINARY SURGEONS



Targeted worming



Bexfields Farm
Galleywood road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 8BY
01245 346904

admin@clarendonequine.co.uk

Targeted worming involves the use of worm egg counts and tapeworm tests (saliva test) to enable owners to know whether they need to worm their horses or not.

Traditional methods of worming at predetermined intervals have caused resistance to many worming products so it's more important than ever that we only treat horses that require it.

Did you know that only 1 in 10 horses on the same grazing may actually need worming?

Using a targeted approach saves you money, is less damaging to the environment, healthier for your horse and reduces wormer resistance.

There are no new types of wormer available, so it is important that we protect the types we do have so further resistance doesn't develop.

If worming habits don't change then it could have a devastating effect on horse welfare. We may then face more cases of poor performance, colic, diarrhoea, weight loss and even death if wormer resistance becomes more widespread.

What causes wormer 'resistance'?

- Using the same type of worming product
- Under dosing or incorrect weight estimation of your horse
- Worming too frequently

Once worms have developed resistance on a property it cannot be reversed.

How to do a worm egg count

- Collect a faecal sample from all horses that need to be tested on the yard and place the packet in the addressed envelope and pop in the post. 3 large pinches from 3 different areas of a pile of droppings (roughly the size of a golf ball in total).
- Ideally all horses on the yard should be tested at the same time(s) so that all horses can be managed simultaneously.
- Horses with a worm egg count of 200 eggs per gram or more should be given a worming treatment.

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- We call you with the results and advise whether you need to worm your horse and what product(s) would best.
- If the whole yard is participating, it would be helpful if we are given permission to discuss the results with your livery yard manager and send over a table of test results to them for reference.

Targeted worming in this way has been shown to reduce your average yearly worming cost by £20 per horse!

Practical management tips

- Poo Pick the fields at every couple of days or a minimum of twice weekly.
- Avoiding spreading horse manure on pasture (harrowing).
- Avoid overstocking the fields/ overgrazing.
- Rest paddocks regularly or alternate grazing with sheep or cattle
- Avoid moving horses onto new pasture within 2 weeks of worming. The traditional 'dose and move' strategy means non-resistant worms are left behind on previous pasture and then the resistant worms move onto the new pasture with the horse.
- Muck out stables regularly, especially if there are foals/weanlings present.
- Worm mares prior to foaling with an ivermectin based wormer.

Foals, weanlings and 2 year olds have a more naïve immune system so will require more frequent worming. Please contact us for further advice on youngsters.

What about Tapeworm?

Current recommendations are that horses should be tested for tapeworm at least once per year. A saliva test gives a result showing how much exposure your horse has had to tapeworm recently by measuring antibodies in the

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saliva. The result will show either HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW exposure and we can then advise you accordingly on whether to treat or not.

Tapeworm treatments on their own such as 'endotape' are no longer available so it is very important that you don't use a combined roundworm and tape wormer such as Strongid P/Equest pramox/Eqvalan duo if you don't need to (e.g. your faecal worm egg count is 0 eggs per gram)

Horse's that just need a Tapeworm treatment can still be treated – we can prescribe a tapeworm treatment through one of our veterinary specials manufacturers. This avoids the un-necessary use of combined wormers.

Clarendon Equine targeted Worming programme

Sign up for an annual worming pack that contains all you need for a targeted worming programme for your horse(s). Where possible we would encourage whole yards to sign up so horses can be managed in appropriate groups.

Either call 01245 346904 or email admin@clarendonequine.co.uk so we can arrange this with you.

We have two options:

- 1. Annual worm egg count pack:** We send you 4 worm egg count packs for the year.
- 2. Annual worm egg count pack + tapeworm:** We send you 4 worm egg count packs and 2 Equisal tapeworm tests for the year.

Each worm egg count pack has a deadline for submission (one per season). This will be the 31st March, 31st June, 31st August and the 31st October. Tapeworm tests should be done in spring and autumn if you select option 2.

We provide you with advice throughout the year and a 10% discount on worming treatments.

The pack is valid for a 12 month period only and isn't transferable to another horse.

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Cost:

- 1. Annual Worm egg count pack - £45.69 inc VAT**
- 2. Annual Worm egg count pack + tapeworm - £81.69 inc VAT**

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