

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE FOAL WHEN BORN, WE MUST FIRST PROTECT THE MARE.

The mare should have:

- Worm egg count every 8 weeks from March-September
- Tapeworm saliva test every 6 months from spring and autumn
- A small redworm (cyathostomin) blood test September-December to indicate the risk from encysted larvae

Treat as the results indicate; worming appropriately and when justified. This will help to reduce the risk of developing anthelmintic (wormer) resistance. Mares managed in this manner should not require additional worming prior to foaling. However, in cases where the worm surveillance strategy detailed above has not been followed, the mare should be wormed proactively with Moxidectin (Equest) four weeks before she is due to foal.



WHEN OUR FOAL IS BORN

- Daily muck-out and regular disinfection of stables should reduce the prevalence of roundworms (ascarids) and redworms (small and large strongyles) on your property.
- Graze 'clean' pasture. Using the same nursery paddock, year on year, causes high pasture worm burdens.
- Poo-pick pasture at least twice per week and do not spread horse manure on it.
- Routine de-worming of foals is required to protect them from parasites. This is in contrast to adult horses who are wormed in response to testing.
- Rotational grazing of youngstock, if there is space to do so, helps to reduce pasture parasite burdens.

IMPORTANT...

If the young foal is scouring it is important to consult your vet as soon as possible. Dehydration and general deterioration occurs quickly in young animals, so time is of the essence.

Call reception on 0808168 5580 or 01254 888 600



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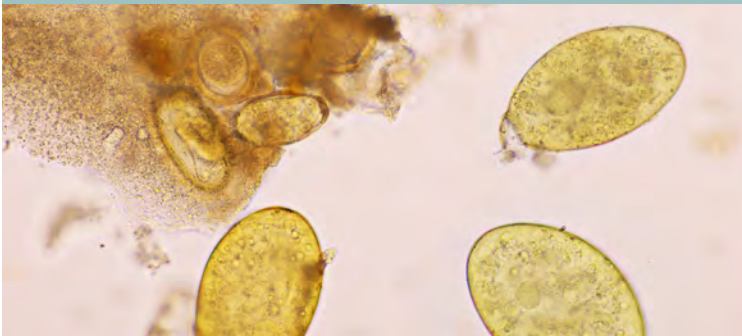
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DE-WORMING THE YOUNG FOAL

- Treat foals for roundworm, at 3 and 5 months' old, with a single dose of fenbendazole (Panacur)
- If there is a history of disease on the property then move this treatment forward to 2 and 4 months' old

It can be difficult to accurately assess the weight of a foal. Ideally use a weigh-bridge or weigh-tape however if in doubt then overestimate the weight to ensure an effective dose is given. Fenbendazole has an unusually high safety margin and it is important that we don't underdose at this time.



DE-WORMING THE OLDER FOAL

- Treat foals and yearlings for redworms November-December, with a single dose of Moxidectin (Equest), correct for the weight of the animal. Do not over-dose moxidectin.
- Foals born earlier in the year (February – April) should have a worm egg count performed at 7-8 months of age to assess for roundworm and redworm infection. Your vet can then decide which treatment, if any, is required.

- Foals born later in the year (May - August) may not require a worm egg count as they need to receive a Moxidectin treatment regardless. Do not give moxidectin to foals less than 4 months' old.
- Foals do not usually require treatment for tapeworm. If disease is suspected then perform tapeworm saliva testing to confirm

Ascarids (a type of roundworm) are very common in foals and yearlings and if left untreated can cause weight-loss, diarrhoea, small intestinal impaction and colic. Other signs may include poor weight gain, a pot belly or rough coat. Migrating larvae may also cause coughing and respiratory damage.

Before 2 months' old, worms in the foal are mainly larvae and immature adults – which are less susceptible to anthelmintics. As such, routine worming treatment prior to two months of age is unnecessary, possibly ineffective and may encourage anthelmintic resistance. Wormers such as Ivermectin are less effective at treating ascarids and should be avoided during the first 5 months of life.

Equest pramox should never be administered to horses less than 6.5 months' old.



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WORMING mares & foals



FOALING TIME IS UPON US...

Foals are born free of parasites but are extremely vulnerable as their immune system takes many months to develop. Exposure to parasites begins in the first week of life whilst stabled, grazing and nursing from the mare. For these reasons all foals need a careful schedule of tests and treatment to ensure their wellbeing.

