Animal Clinic, LLC 232 First Street Fort Lupton, CO 80621 303-857-6671

Dr. Ray Sagehorn, Dr. Troy Dowdy, Dr. Victoria J. Cabrera, Dr. Samantha Delbecq, Dr. Sawyer Howell

EQUINE RECOMMENDED DEWORMING GUIDELINES

Establishing an effective parasite control program will improve your horse's health. Internal parasites can lower resistance to infection, deprive horses of valuable nutrients, and can cause extensive internal damage without the owner even realizing the horse is heavily infected. Outlined below are a number of protocol guidelines for maximizing your horse's health. These guidelines are regionally, yearly, and individually specific. The best way to determine a deworming schedule for your horse is to involve your veterinarian and to perform a fecal egg count to determine the parasite burden of individual horses.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER:

Some important principles and recommendations are:

- ✓ Non-chemical parasite management:
  - Rotate pastures
  - Remove manure frequently
  - Harrow/drag pastures in hot/dry weather and keep horses off for 2 months
  - Avoid over-stocking pastures
  - Cross graze pastures with ruminants if possible
- ✓ Eliminate tapeworms from horses once a year using a praziquantel product such as Zimectrin Gold®, Equimax®, or Quest Plus® (do not use Quest Plus® unless directed by your veterinarian).
- ✓ Encysted small strongyles during their larval stage are resistant to many dewormers and do not show up on fecal egg counts. The recommended dewormers for killing encysted small strongyles include moxidectin (Quest Plus®) or a double dose of fenbendazole for 5 consecutive days (Panacur® PowerPak). Treat for the encysted small strongyles in the early spring and keep yearlings separated; they tend to shed the most small strongyles.
- ✓ Avoid using the same pasture or paddocks for consecutive years for mares and foals. This allows high levels of ascarid eggs to build-up, which can survive in the environment for years.

Remember, parasite resistance to dewormers (drug resistance) is a real issue. By following these recommendations and the individual based deworming schedules below we can minimize drug resistance

ADULT HORSE DEWORMING SCHEDULE:

In adult horses, the two parasites of most concern in this region are small strongyles (both encysted and non-encysted) and tapeworms. Proper identification of these parasites and the current shedding concentration of your horse into the environment using a fecal egg counts (FEC) is paramount for developing a deworming control strategy for the individual horse. Please involve your veterinarian in this process to classify your horse as a low, medium, or high shedder. This individual based deworming control strategy can save money, allow the use of less dewormer, target the type of dewormer to the present parasites, and thereby reducing the risk of drug resistance.

- ✓ **Low Shedders (<200 EPG-eggs per gram of manure)**
  - Fecal Egg Count performed prior to deworming in spring (ideally again in the fall)
  - Spring (March)-Ivermectin (Eqvalan®)
  - Fall (October) – Ivermectin with praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold® or Equimax®)
- ✓ **Moderate Shedders (200-500 EPG)**
  - Fecal Egg Count performed prior to deworming in spring (ideally again in the fall)
  - Spring (March) - Ivermectin (Eqvalan®)
  - Late Summer (July) – Pyrantel pamoate (Strongid paste®), or fenbendazole (Panacur®)
  - Early Winter (November) - Ivermectin with praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold® or Equimax®)
- ✓ **High Shedders (>500 EPG)**
  - Fecal Egg Count performed prior to deworming in the spring and fall to monitor for resistance.
  - Spring (March) – Moxidectin (Quest®) or double-dose of fenbendazole for 5 days (Panacur® PowerPak)
  - Summer (June) – Pyrantel pamoate (Strongid paste®), fenbendazole (Panacur®), or oxibendazole (Anthelcide®)
  - Fall (September) – Ivermectin with praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold® or Equimax®) or moxidectin with praziquantel (Quest Plus®)
  - Winter (December) - Pyrantel pamoate (Strongid paste®), fenbendazole (Panacur®), or oxibendazole (Anthelcide®)
- ✓ **Pregnant Mares**
  - Deworm using ivermectin with praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold® or Equimax®) or moxidectin with praziquantel (Quest Plus®) 4-6 weeks prior to foaling.

The brands of dewormers listed here are recommendations, other brands are available that also work well. Be careful to avoid generic brands as they often times are not concentrated enough to work and can potentially make things worse with parasite resistance.

FOAL DEWORMING SCHEDULE

In foals the parasite of most concern is an ascarid. Unlike adult horses, foals require more frequent deworming regardless of their fecal egg counts. Foals should be dewormed every 2 months for the first year of life.

- ✓ **2 months of age** – Ivermectin (Eqvalan®)
- ✓ **4 months of age** – Oxibendazole (Anthelcide EQ®)
- ✓ **6 months** – Moxidectin with praziquantel (Quest Plus®)
- ✓ **8 months** – Pyrantel pamoate (Strongid®)
- ✓ **10 months** – Ivermectin (Eqvalan®)
- ✓ **12 months** – Fenbendazole (Panacur®)

The brands of dewormers listed here are recommendations, other brands are available that also work well. Be careful to avoid generic brands as they often times are not concentrated enough to work and can potentially make things worse with parasite resistance.

YOUNG HORSE DEWORMING SCHEDULE

During the second and third years of life, horses should be treated as “high shedders”. After this period they can be treated according to their fecal egg count. During this time period, fecal egg counts are still recommended so a targeted approach can be used to aid in selection of an appropriate dewormer to achieve the maximum kill of parasites.