



WALNUT GROVE VETERINARY SERVICE

Practice Limited to Equine Medicine and Surgery

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A SAMPLE ROTATIONAL DE-WORMING PROGRAM

- December 1** It is recommended that either ivermectin (*Zimectrin, Equimectrin, Rotectin 1, etc.*) or moxidectin (*Quest*) be used at this time to kill migrating bot larvae before they reach the stomach. The benefits of using Quest vs. ivermectin products are minimal at this deworming. There is no reason that praziquantel + ivermectin (*Equimax, Zimectrin Gold*) or praziquantel + moxidectin (*Quest Plus*) cannot be used for additional advantage in controlling tapeworms.
- February 1** Use of *Anthelcide* or fenbendazole (*Panacur or Safeguard*) is a good choice for most clients at this time of year. During the cold months the parasite infective load on pastures is generally low, and therefore the use of a less potent, but still effective dewormer is indicated.
- April 1** This is the most important de-worming treatment of the year, because as the spring and summer go on, the parasite infective load on pastures goes up no matter what deworming program is used. The goal here is to use the product that will keep the parasite burden as low as possible for as long as possible. The use of moxidectin (*Quest*) has been shown to be more effective in this regard than any other dewormer. Ivermectin products (*Zimectrin, Equimectrin, Rotectin 1, etc.*) are also a good choice at this time. Praziquantel + ivermectin (*Equimax, Zimectrin Gold*) or praziquantel + moxidectin (*Quest Plus*) can be used for the additional purpose of controlling tapeworms.
- June 1** Traditionally, we have recommended that a double or triple dose of pyrantel (*Strongid, Rotectin 2 etc.*) paste be used to control tapeworms at this treatment. Use of one of the products containing praziquantel (*Equimax, Zimectrin Gold, Quest Plus*) at the April deworming should make this unnecessary. Pyrantel (*Strongid, Rotectin 2, etc.*), at either a single or double dose, is still a good choice for use at this time.
- August 1** Use of either ivermectin (*Zimectrin, Equimectrin, Rotectin 1, etc*) or fenbendazole (*Panacur or Safeguard*) is OK here. We tend to recommend use of ivermectin (*Zimectrin, Equimectrin, Rotectin 1, etc*) on farms where pastures are very heavily grazed, or densely populated, or on individuals who tend to be hard keepers.
- October 1** Use of pyrantel (*Strongid, Rotectin 2, etc.*) is a good choice here. There is no particular reason that this dewormer must be used here, but it fits into the rotational plan well at this time of year.

There has recently been a renewed interest in performing fecal examinations on all horses, and de-worming only as needed on the basis of the parasite burden present. There is nothing wrong with this approach. In fact, there are several legitimate arguments to be made in its favor. Among the more convincing of these is the assertion that the use of de-wormers helps only on an 'as needed basis' helps avoid the development of drug-resistant parasites. We are happy to assist our clients if they want to use this program. For the majority of horse owners, however, we feel that the above rotational program is less expensive and more than sufficient.