



Buckingham Equine Vets: Worming Advice



To worm or not to worm, that is the question. There is much conflicting advice in the equine world on when and how to worm horses. To make it simple for our clients we have put together the following worming advice. The information below has been produced after consulting the most recent scientific literature. Please read the advice below and if you have any questions on worming your horse please ring the clinic to speak to one of our vet team so we can help.

Adult horses (>6 months of age)

Month	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Action		WEC			WEC			WEC		Worming	Period	

During the months April, July and October the levels of adult worms should be monitored using worm egg counting (WEC). Samples of dung should be delivered to our clinic in the morning. A veterinary surgeon will then report the worm levels of your horse within 24 hours and give appropriate worming advice.

At some point during the winter period (November to February) we advise using a wormer that treats both adult and juvenile roundworms and also tapeworms administered to all horses, even if their recent worm counts have been low. This is because juvenile worms cannot be monitored using worm egg counting but their emergence in the Spring can have serious deleterious effects on the health of a horse (e.g. colic, diarrhoea). The wormer we recommend is **Pramox Equest**.

Foals (<6.5 months)

Immediately after birth foals are at greatest risk of receiving worm from their mothers. Mare should therefore be wormed towards the end of pregnancy (see below). Foals should not be wormed until **6 weeks of age**. We then advise giving the foal a wormer containing fenbendazole (Panacur) or ivermectin.

Weanlings, yearlings, 2, 3, & 4 year olds

Worming should be maintained regularly throughout the year alternating annually between ivermectin, moxidectin and pyrantel. Young horses are most at risk from high worm levels so should be treated regularly.

Lactating mares

We recommend lactating mares should not be wormed until **at least 2 weeks after giving birth**. We then advise giving a moxidectin or ivermectin based wormers repeatedly while the foal is at foot. The timing of this wormer depends on which wormer was last given during the pregnancy, i.e. 13 weeks after last moxidectin wormer, 8 weeks after last ivermectin wormer.

Pregnant mares

It is important to maintain a worm free status in the pregnant mare as she can pass on worm larvae to the foal soon after birth. We therefore recommend monitoring worm egg levels (WEC) as for adults horses (above) and giving a moxidectin or ivermectin wormer within the last month of pregnancy.

Buckingham Equine Vets: Wormers Explained

Below is a list of some commonly used wormers

Table 1 highlights the relative merits of each wormer. Table 2 shows the tests available to diagnose a horse's worm burden.

Table 1 - Types of wormers

Wormer	Drug	Treats adult roundworms	Treats all larval stages of roundworms	Treats Tapeworms	Comments
Panacur– One off treatment	Fenbendazole	✓			Drug resistance reported
Panacur– 5 Day Course	Fenbendazole	✓	✓		Drug resistance reported
Strongid-P, Embotape, Pyratape P	Pyrantel embotape	✓		✓	Treats tapeworms at double dose
Alomec, Eraquell, Eraquell tablets, Eqvalan, Bimectin, Vectin, Animec	Ivermectin	✓			
Equimax, Noropraz	Ivermectin & Praziquantel	✓		✓	
Equest	Moxidectin	✓	✓		
Equest Pramox	Moxidectin & Praziquantel	✓	✓	✓	Care for use in young & old horse and those prone to colic

Table 2 - Testing for worms

Laboratory Test	Tests for adult roundworms	Tests for larval stages of roundworms	Tests for Tapeworms	Comments
Roundworm testing - Faecal egg count 	✓			
Roundworm testing - Blood test 	✓	✓		Test in Autumn/Winter
Tapeworm testing - Blood or saliva tests  			✓	