



**ST DAVID'S EQUINE**  
VETERINARY SURGEONS

# FACTSHEET

## EQUINE WORMING PROGRAMME

### **We run a worming scheme for our clients. The scheme aims to:**

- Give you access to preferential and competitive prices for the full range of equine worming products. This gives you confidence that you are getting the best deal.
- Take the worry out of worming your horse. We send you the number and type of wormers you will need for each of your horses at the time they are required.
- Give you free advice on which worming product to use and when to use it. This advice is based on the latest veterinary research and is independent of the pharmaceutical companies that produce the worming products. Giving you peace of mind that your horse has been treated appropriately for all the main equine worms.

### **Competitive prices**

Due to the popularity of the programme, we have been able to negotiate favourable terms with the suppliers of worming products which allows us to offer you prices that are very competitive. We review our prices every 6 months to check that they remain competitive with other outlets.

### **Making sense of the products available**

There are a bewildering number of worming products available and making sense of these is not always easy.

- Many apparently different products with different brand names contain the same active ingredients as each other (there are only five main worming drugs regularly used in horses but a multitude of different brand names). Often the prices of products vary wildly even though their action and active ingredient is directly equivalent.
- Some active ingredients are more active than others against certain worm threats and so will be more appropriate to use in certain circumstances.
- There is widespread resistance to the active ingredients contained in some worming products. Worming with certain products at certain times can actually increase the risk of disease due to worm damage (for instance there is some evidence that worming a horse that has a bad infestation of small redworm larvae can activate dormant small redworm larvae and actually increase the risk of disease in that animal).

There are now a number of products that contain more than one active ingredient with different actions (normally a product to treat roundworm and another to treat tapeworm). These products are useful at certain times of year, but worming for tapeworm is not required more than once or twice a year in most circumstances while roundworm treatment is normally required more frequently.



We survey the products available and compare all products with the same action and same active ingredient in order to get the best deal for our clients.

## **The main elements of our worming plan**

To provide optimum protection, a worming plan must address the main worm threats each year at the time most appropriate to treat them:

- One or two treatments for tapeworm each year. The timing of this is not critical, but tapeworm treatments are normally carried out in spring and autumn.
- A treatment for dormant small redworm larvae in winter.
- A treatment for both in the winter.
- Regular routine treatment for adult roundworm during the grazing season.
- Appropriate rotation of wormer types to minimise the build up of resistance to wormers by the worms.
- It is always preferable that all horses on a yard are treated with the same product at the same time. This reduces the risk of the build up of worms on pasture and the risk of a treated horse being re-infected by worms from an untreated grazing partner.
- We recommend that you worm any new horses entering the yard before they go out to graze. They should then remain housed for 24 hours after worming before going out to pasture.

## **How does the plan work?**

We will agree a worming plan with you in advance and take a note of your horse's name and an estimate of their weight. We will then send you the number and type of wormers that you need along with when they are needed. All you need to do is to administer the doses when they arrive! If you prefer, you can pick up your wormers from the surgery.

We normally ask you to pay for the wormers received within 14 days to take advantage of the preferential prices we offer on the scheme. This is because the prices are deliberately kept low and consequently we cannot offer credit on them.

## **Strategic worming**

We are also happy to give advice on strategic worming of those horses at lower risk of worm infestation. The mainstay of strategic worming is normally regular analysis of faeces to look for evidence of roundworm infestation (checking for worm eggs every 3 months) and blood testing every 6 months to check for evidence of tapeworm infestation. Horses are then treated if evidence of infestation is found. We offer these tests through the practice at low cost and also offer free interpretation of the results by one of our veterinary surgeons.

## **How can you find out more?**

If you would like to join our worming scheme or would like to find out more, please contact the equine office on 01392 876622 (option 2).