



LHVC EQUINE WORMING PROGRAMME

WHY WORM HORSES?

The Ascarids (large roundworms), Bots, Large Strongyles (Bloodworms) and the tapeworm are the most common worms in New Zealand causing problems in our horses.

Colic, weight loss, poor performance, chronic diarrhoea, and even death can occur. What is less well-known is that worms can play a role in lameness, bone marrow disorders, dental disease and skin infections.

THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH

Traditionally people worm their horses every 6 to 8 weeks while rotating drench groups every treatment. Unfortunately most people swap brand names, not active ingredients. Who has not swapped between Genesis, Promectin or Equitak? Unfortunately all these brands contain the same active ingredients, and therefore work the same way.

The traditional recommendation of worming your horse every 6 to 8 weeks is based on studies done in the 1960s when bendazole (white drench) was the most common drench used, and strongylus vulgaris was the main problem. Since this time a lot has changed; bendazole is hardly used as an



active ingredient nowadays and Strongylus vulgaris is not the main problem anymore.

RESISTANCE AND REFUGIA

Recent studies have shown that resistance is still the biggest issue in New Zealand, but with new techniques and worm drenches, resistance is relatively easy to manage.

Resistance develops by overusing wormers in horses that do not need to be wormed. When worming your horse, you kill susceptible worms and leave the resistant worms alive. Because there are no other worms in the paddock, the resistant worms have free reign and start multiplying rapidly, leaving you with a paddock crawling with resistant worms.

The main way of preventing this is to keep a level of non-resistant worms in your horses' environment. This is called 'refugia'.

One of the latest studies done by Massey University, backed up by research done by other leading organisations in New Zealand, is focusing on natural resistance of horses against worms.

This research shows that 45% of horses shed 98% of all larvae or worms when run together in one paddock. This means that 55% of horses are very low shedders; they shed the remaining 2% and therefore do not need to be wormed as often.

FECAL EGG COUNT

Faecal Egg Counts (FECs) are used to determine whether a horse has worms and can give an estimate of how heavy the worm burden is. This is an ideal tool to determine, for each individual horse, whether drenching is needed or not.

LHVC WORMING PROGRAMME

We can assist you in protecting your horses and property from resistant worms. The tailored programme we can create for you is based on

this latest research and is tailored to your individual horse and property with the help of FECs.

As an extra bonus we can save you up to 50% of your worming treatments.

The programme consists of:

4 FECs spread over one year, used to place your horse in one of three groups:

1. High Shedding - these are horses that have a low immunity against worms. (27% of population)
2. Moderate shedding - these are horses that have a medium immunity against worms (38% of population)
3. Low shedding - these are horses that have a high immunity against worms (55% of population)

Once these FECs have been examined and your horse is placed into one of these groups, we will send you the right wormer for each horse on your property when worming is needed.

A FEC from every horse on your property is required for this programme. A sign-up form should be filled in and handed-in together with the samples. From this time onwards, we will send you reminders every three months to hand in faecal samples for your next test. Once these samples have been tested, the appropriate wormer (if required) per horse will be sent out to you.

Take into account also that in late summer, bots are the main issue, while in late autumn and early winter tapeworms are the main problem.

The products that we will be using are Ultramox® with Moxidectin, Oxfendazole and Praziquantel as active ingredients, and Genesis® with Abamectin and Praziquantel as active ingredients.



WHEN CAN I START MY HORSE ON THIS PROGRAMME?

The best time to start on this tailor-made programme is 6 to 12 weeks after the last worming treatment. The exact timing depends on the last wormer you used. Also your horse needs to be at least 6 months old. If you want to know what the best timing is for you, please give us a ring and we are more than happy to assist you.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF THE NEW WORMING PROGRAMME?

There will be a monthly cost*.

If your horse is placed in the moderate or low shedding group you will receive a discount after the first year.

Once placed in the low shedding group, the cost can drop by up to 50% per month for this horse for the following years.

**Please contact us for the current pricing.*

Pay up front on an annual basis and get 5% off the total bill.

Talk to us about payment options for you.

We can also assist you by determining if your current worming programme is functioning well. To do this, hand in a faecal sample for FEC 2-10 days after your last treatment. We will ring you back with results and advice.