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Equine Deworming Protocol

In our efforts to keep our equine clients informed of new products and procedures, we are writing this to inform you of the current recommendations for deworming your horses. We have structured an **optimal deworming schedule** based on the life cycles of the common worms found in horses in this northern climate. Enclosed you will find an information sheet explaining the problems caused by these parasites, along with the deworming protocol.

Horses in the North can be infected with **large strongyles, small strongyles, roundworms, pinworms, hairworms, stomach worms, tapeworms and bots**. For a long time, the veterinary profession believed that the focus of a deworming program should concentrate on the eradication of the large strongyles, because they historically have been the most destructive. However, it is recently been shown that the small strongyles have more economic impact due to their greater numbers and the encysted stage of their larvae. These encysted worms are found in the intestinal lining during the cold months of the year and are highly resistant to dewormers. These larvae emerge in the spring and pass in the feces thus contaminating the pasture. In order to battle the many types and hardiness of these parasites, **rotational deworming** using **several products** is recommended. The timing of these products is based on their efficacy (how well they work) during different stages of the worms' life cycles.

Farm hygiene is essential to a good deworming program. The worms' offspring passed from the horse onto the spring grass comprises 95% of the worm population. Using Panacur Powerpac during the winter will greatly decrease the number of offspring able to contaminate the spring grass. The optimal time to use Panacur Powerpac in the North is in December or January; however, it is still efficacious if used in February. In addition, removing the manure piles from the pasture will decrease the number of worms to which your horses are exposed. Rotating pastures is also beneficial. True rotation means no horses on a pasture for at least 4 months.

Furthermore, fecal egg counts should be used to monitor the effectiveness of a farm's deworming strategy. Samples can be submitted to the clinic for parasite examination. Spring and fall samples are recommended.

Disclaimer: No single deworming program is appropriate for every farm. Factors that must be considered in designing a deworming program include location, whitetail deer exposure, pasture capacity, population and ages of animals, weather, etc. The schedule above is a good template for parasite control, but does not replace fecal testing and risk evaluation by your veterinarian.

Optimal Deworming Schedule

PARASITE	SITE	SYMPTOMS	DAMAGE
LARGE STRONGYLES	CECUM, LARGE COLON, ABDOMINAL TISSUE, BLOODSTREAM	FEVER, ILL-THRIFT, COLIC, ANOREXIA, SOFT FECES, SWOLLEN LEGS	ULCERS, TISSUE DAMAGE, THROMBOSIS, EMBOLISMS
SMALL STRONGYLES	LARGE COLON, CECUM	ANEMIA, ANOREXIA, DARK FECES	THICKENED INTESTINES
LARGE ROUNDWORMS	SMALL INTESTINE, LUNG, LIVER	FLATULENCE, DIARRHEA, POTBELLY, POOR HAIR COAT, COUGHING	INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION, RESPIRATORY INFECTION
PINWORMS	LARGE COLON, CECUM	TAIL RUBBING, POOR HAIR COAT	INTESTINAL LINING DAMAGE
TAPEWORMS	SMALL INTESTINE, ILEOCECAL JUNCTION	LOW GRADE COLIC, WEIGHT LOSS, ILL THRIFT	INTESTINAL LINING DAMAGE
BOTS	STOMACH	USUALLY ASYMPTOMATIC	STOMACH LINING DAMAGE

DEWORMING RECOMMENDATIONS

December-----**Panacur Powerpac**—*Recommendation is one tube per day for 5 days.* The drug is Fenbendazole, which is the same as Panacur or Safeguard, but the concentration is *More* than doubled. (57g/tube versus 25g/tube) This will take care of those **ENCYSTED** larva. *We feel that this is very important!!!!!!*

Note; no testing has been done on the safety of this concentration in pregnant mares so at this time we must advise you not to do your pregnant mares. Fenbendazole has been around for a long time and it is the safest of all dewormers, but until the label says it's safe, our recommendation is to hold off on your pregnant mares until 2 weeks after they have foaled.

April-----Quest (moxidectin) this is the only dewormer that claims to work on ENCYSTED Larvae in a single dose. It is supposed to get every type of worm. Be careful not to use it on anything younger than 4 months—**Will cause problems-do not use if < 4 months old.** Also, it is a very strong dewormer, **DO NOT DOUBLE DOSE IT.** At 2 times the dosage you get a lethargic horse, at 5 times you get a comatose horse. No antidote!!! Very good dewormer, but strong.

June-----Eqvalan (Ivermectin) very 8 weeks

August-----Eqvalan

October-----Eqvalan

November-----Quest (then back to above to Panacur Powerpac in December)

This deworming protocol will give your horses the optimum protection. For you “die hard” **Strongid 2x fans**, you can replace the Ivermectin from May-November with daily doses of **Strongid 2x**. We recommend that you keep the rest of the program the same.

NOTE: Any new horses brought to your farm should go through a Panacur Powerpac 5 days in a row upon arrival, no matter what time of the year. This will minimize bringing in worms. Remember; do not turn new horses out on your pasture for 2 weeks after deworming.

NOTE 2: Please ask our receptionists about ordering all your dewormers for the year for your horses. This would include 10 tubes: 1 Panacur Powerpac-5 tubes, 3 tubes of Eqvalan, and 2 tubes of Quest per horse.

It must be paid in full at time of pick up, and BEST price applies. (Please call ahead for pricing)