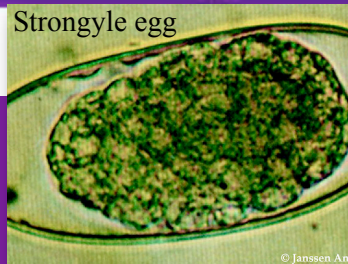




Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine



Strongyle egg



Ascarid egg



Deworming recommendations for horses

Deworming your horse is an important part of a regular health maintenance schedule.

Karie Vander Werf, DVM



Ascarid

Although there are over 150 species of parasites that can affect your horse, there are a few that are the most common. These include the large and small strongyles, roundworms (ascarids), tapeworms, lungworms, pinworms, threadworms, and

bots. Their life cycles include eggs, larvae, and adults, and each can have an impact on your horse's health. Unfortunately, no single dewormer is effective against all of the common parasites and resistance to parasiticides is becoming an increasing problem. Here are some methods to reduce the parasite load on your farm.

Fecal egg counts, deworming schedules, and pasture management are essential.

Fecal egg counts should be performed on *every horse* on your farm before and at a certain time-period after a deworming treatment. This can be easily performed by collecting a small amount of feces (2 or 3 fecal balls) and submitting this to your veterinarian who will then perform a quantitative assay to determine the number of eggs per gram of feces of each parasite your horse may have. Once the horse is dewormed, two weeks must pass before re-taking the fecal sample. This allows for a washout of the eggs from the cecum and colon and gives a better idea of effectiveness. You should see a

90 to 95% reduction in the number of eggs if the product you use is effective. If you see a decreased reduction (less than 90% reduction) in the number of eggs in the feces, then resistance to that dewormer is suspected and that drug should be eliminated from your deworming schedule.

More information can be found at: <http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/dmp/service/index.htm>

Deworming schedules can vary depending on the age of the horse you are treating and the number of horses in each pasture. Foals may require more frequent deworming; adult to middle-aged horses should be dewormed less frequently. Aged horses may require increased treatments due to their susceptibility to parasitism. One or two horses maintained on the same pasture and that have been dewormed frequently in the past may need less dewormings than those that are in more crowded areas with horses coming in and out. Fecal egg counts can help determine into which group your horses fit.

Pasture management includes removing feces from the pasture as often as possible (at least twice weekly). Breaking up the fecal piles also exposes the larvae to the environment. Rotate pastures and allow livestock such as sheep or cattle to graze as this will disrupt the life-cycle of equine parasites. Finally, keep the number of horses per acre to a minimum.

Example adult rotational deworming schedule

Rotation of dewormer class has recently been indicated to reduce the incidence of resistance. Below is a sample recommended schedule:

January	March	May	July	September	November
Pyrantel pamoate Strongid® (double dose)	Benzimidazole (fenbendazole) Panacur PowerPac®, Safe-Guard PowerDose®* (Double dose (10 mg/kg) once daily for 5 days)	Macrocyclic lactone (ivermectin/moxidectin) (+/- add praziquantel) Eqvalan®, Quest Plus®, Zimectrin Gold®	Pyrantel pamoate Strongid® (double dose)	Benzimidazole (fenbendazole) Panacur®, Safe-Guard®*	Macrocyclic lactone (ivermectin/moxidectin) (+/- add praziquantel) Eqvalan®, Quest Plus®, Zimectrin Gold®
General parasites, tapeworms	General parasites, encysted small strongyles	General parasites, bots	General parasites, tapeworms	General parasites	General parasites, bots

*Examples of trade-names are informational only.

Regardless of the deworming schedule performed, an adult yearly program should include one treatment with double-dose fenbendazole, one treatment with moxidectin, and one treatment with double-dose pyrantel. These formulations and dosages are effective for the encysted larval stages and tapeworms which are not affected by traditional dewormers.

Example foal rotational deworming program (low fecal egg counts)

1 month	3 months	5 months	7 months*	9 months*	11 months*
Ivermectin Eqvalan®	Pyrantel pamoate Strongid®	Fenbendazole Panacur®	Ivermectin +/- praziquantel Moxidectin** Eqvalan®, Quest Plus®, Zimectrin Gold®	Pyrantel pamoate Strongid®	Fenbendazole Panacur®

*Start the adult deworming program after the foal has been weaned.

**Do not use moxidectin (Quest®) in foals less than 6 months of age.