

Annual Worm Risk Assessment Form

IMPORTANT! Protect our horses - worming advice is changing

Resistance to wormers is growing and puts our horses at risk of diseases that we can no longer prevent or treat.

An annual worm risk assessment, together with regular faecal worm egg counts and a tapeworm test, are essential elements of your horse's routine healthcare.

- All horses have worms – this is natural and healthy.
- It's essential that we only treat horses with wormers where necessary.
- The annual risk assessment, coupled with regular faecal egg counts and a tapeworm saliva (or blood test) enable us to decide which horses to treat, which wormer to use, and which horses not to treat.
- The faecal egg counts measure how many redworm eggs your horse is passing in its droppings and contaminating the pasture.
- The tapeworm test tells you how many tapeworms the horse has (this can't be determined by a faecal egg count).
- The results of faecal egg counts and tapeworm tests are used in conjunction with the annual risk assessment to decide which horses require worming and with what.

We recommend that the risk assessment is carried out at the same time that you carry out a tapeworm saliva test this autumn, although it can be done at any time during the year.

A routine treatment of moxidectin in the winter is not recommended for mature horses identified as low risk of infection from small redworm. A blood test is available to confirm this if required.

It is absolutely vital that we do not routinely administer worming treatments without doing the risk assessment.

This is because:

- Similar to antibiotics, resistance to the drugs used to treat worms is a rapidly growing concern - fuelled by the routine and over-use of wormers. There are no new alternative ingredients on the horizon. Only treating horses when necessary will help to preserve the wormers that we have.
- We need to avoid treating horses unnecessarily. Most adult horses are at a low risk of small redworm larvae infection.
- There is concern about the serious environmental toxic effects of equine parasiticides on invertebrates, aquatic animals and other organisms.

So that your vet can carry out the annual risk assessment for your horse, please answer the questions on the following page and email this form back to your veterinary practice. They will contact you if they need further information.

Once they have carried out the risk assessment, one of their team will get back to you with the results and recommendations for treatment if it is required.

Thank you.

Please complete and return this form to your veterinary practice.
It can be completed electronically or printed.

For office use only

Your name		Date	
Your address & postcode			
Your telephone number		Email address	
Your horse's name		How old is your horse?	
Is your horse on the Horse Health Programme?	<div style="text-align: right;">Yes No</div>		

1

Information about your pasture and herd

Does your horse have access to grazing? Yes No

If yes, does your horse usually share a paddock with/graze with other horses? Yes No

If yes, how many others?

Does your horse graze with other horses that are younger than 5 years old? Yes No

Has your horse (or other horses grazing the same pasture) been suspected of having a small redworm or tapeworm associated disease in the last two years? Yes No

What is the size of the pasture that your horse grazes? (in acres - not per horse if shared with other horses) Please state size of smallest paddock/field if more than one. Note that an acre is roughly the 90% of the size of a football pitch.

2

Does your horse share or rotate grazing with cattle or sheep? Yes, always Yes, sometimes Never

3

Does your horse share grazing with donkeys? Yes No

Do you regularly remove dung ('poo pick') from the pasture? Regularly, once a week or more Regularly but less than once a week Sporadically or never

4

Are there ever newcomers into the herd? Yes No

5

If so, how often? Occasionally Frequently

Are the newcomers subject to any quarantine or special requirements concerning worming tests/treatment? Yes No

6

Please provide details if known

Worming history

When was your horse last wormed?

What wormer did you use?

Do you use wormers regularly?

Yes, regardless
of test results

Only if indicated
by test results

Never

Are all horses grazing the same pasture that need worming treated at the same time?

Yes

No

What proportion of horses grazing the same pasture as your horse were wormed at the last worming treatment?

None

Few

Lots

All

Not
applicable

Don't
know

Do you regularly use faecal worm egg counts during the grazing season (Feb - Nov) as part of your horse's worming programme?

Yes

No

7

If yes, are they carried out by our veterinary practice?

Yes

No

When was your horse's last faecal worm egg count carried out?

Please state the result if known:

 eggs per gram

Were you advised to worm your horse as a result of the last test?

Yes

No

Who makes the decisions about when to give your horse a wormer and what wormer to use?

Me

Yard Manager

Other

If other, please specify

Has your horse had a small redworm blood test in the last year?

Yes

No

8

If yes, after the last test, did you need to treat your horse for small redworm?

Yes

No

Has your horse ever had a faecal egg count reduction test carried out?
(a faecal egg count performed just before **and** 14 days after worming)

Yes

No

If yes, please state which wormer was tested (if known)

Tapeworm testing

Do you carry out a tapeworm saliva test on your horse at least once a year?

Yes

No

9

If yes, after the last test, did you need to treat your horse for tapeworm?

Yes

No

What proportion of horses grazing on the same paddock as your horse were treated for tapeworm at the time of your last tapeworm test?

None

Few

Most

All

Not
applicable

Don't
know

All done! Thank you for completing this risk assessment.

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Risk Profile & advice

Total risk score

Dosing

Disposal

Testing

Contraindications

Withdrawal period