



*Excellence in Equine Medicine*

[www.ColtsHeadVet.com](http://www.ColtsHeadVet.com)

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## **DEWORMING SCHEDULE BASED ON FECALS**

Recent research has shown that 80% of the parasite egg population comes from 20% of the equine population on a given farm indicating most horses are resistant to parasites. Parasite resistance to dewormers is increasing and no new classes of dewormers are currently being developed. Based on these issues, we have three goals for decreasing your horse's parasite burden.

1. Determine if your horse is a low, moderate, or high shedder of GI parasites.
2. Use a dewormer that is effective for your horse.
3. Decrease your horse's exposure to parasites.

To accomplish these goals we recommend the following plan:

1. To begin, we need to determine your horse's parasite burden:
  - An initial fecal egg count should be performed at least 6-8 weeks after deworming with pyrantel pamoate (Strongid) or 10-12 weeks after deworming with ivermectin (Zimectrin) or moxidectin (Quest). This will determine if your horse is a low, moderate, or high shedder of GI parasites. A deworming program will be recommended.
2. Next, we need to find dewormers that are effective for your horse.
  - Deworm your horse with the recommended product. Use the product recommended closest to today's date. For future dewormings, you will fold into the recommended schedule.
  - If recommended, have a repeat fecal egg count performed 10 to 14 days later to make sure the parasites were killed. This step is very important to determine if the dewormer was effective.
  - Each time your horse is due to be dewormed with a new class of dewormer (ivermectin and Quest are in the same class, Strongid, and Panacur are two other classes) repeat this procedure- have a fecal egg count performed before deworming, deworm your horse with the recommended product, and repeat a fecal egg count 10 to 14 days later. Once we know which products are effective for your horse, we do not need to perform a fecal egg count every time your horse is dewormed.
  - After the first year on this program, only an annual fecal egg count is necessary.
3. Decrease your horse's exposure to parasites:
  - Remove manure from paddocks twice weekly if possible.
  - If you are going to drag or mow paddocks, wait until the hottest days of the year, drag or mow, and then leave the paddock vacant for several weeks or drag at the end of the grazing season.

We will recommend a deworming schedule that is a starting point based on the guidelines discussed above.



# COLTS HEAD

Veterinary Services, P.C.

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Deworming schedule for \_\_\_\_\_ Owned by \_\_\_\_\_

Results from fecal egg count collected on \_\_\_\_\_.

With \_\_\_\_\_ ova per gram, your horse is a **LOW MODERATE HIGH** shedder of parasites.

Deworm your horse with \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

then fold into the appropriate schedule below. Next fecal is due \_\_\_\_\_

### Low Shedder:

**June 1** – ivermectin (Zimectrin)

**November 1** – ivermectin + praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold or Equimax)

### Moderate Shedder:

**June 1** – ivermectin (Zimectrin)

**August 1** – moxidectin (Quest) \* **see note below**

**November 1** – ivermectin + praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold or Equimax)

### High Shedder:

**April 1** – pyrantel pamoate (Strongid)

**June 1** – ivermectin (Zimectrin)

**August 1** – moxidectin (Quest) \* **see note below**

**November 1** – ivermectin + praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold or Equimax)

- **Note for Quest:** Accurate weight determination is important. A weight tape can be used to estimate your horse's weight. **Do not use Quest in severely underweight horses.**
- **Sample collection:** A fecal sample should include 2-3 fresh (collected in the past 4 hours) fecal balls stored in a plastic bag with all air squeezed out, submitted immediately or stored in a refrigerator for up to a day.
- Rinse horse's mouth with water or wait until mouth is empty before deworming to ensure accurate dosing.
- New horses to the herd – have fecal egg count performed, deworm with ivermectin, and isolate for 4 days.
- Please call for a deworming schedule for horses less than 1 year of age and pregnant mares.
- We recommend using brand name products for ivermectin (Zimectrin) and pyrantel pamoate (Strongid) as these products may be more effective.

All deworming products mentioned in the schedule are available through our office for your convenience.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Owner phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Notes: