

Sample Deworming Schedules

Please note: Fecals should be submitted prior to deworming whenever possible.

Adult Low Shedder:

	April	October
Fecal	Yes	Yes
Deworm	Ivermectin	Ivermectin/ Praziquantal

Adult High Shedder:

	April	June	August	Oct.	Jan.
Fecal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deworm	*Oxi	Iver.	*Pyran.	Moxi./ Prazi	*Pyran

Foals:

	6-8 weeks	14-16 w	22-24 w	30-32 w
Fecal	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deworm	Oxibend.	Pyrantel	Oxibend.	Pyrantel

After foals are 38 weeks of age, they should follow the adult schedule.

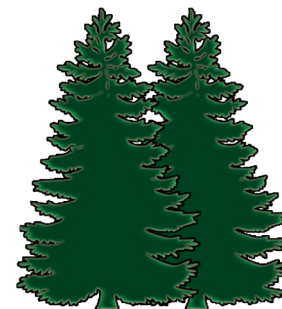
*Whenever Oxibendazole or Pyrantel are used in adult horses, a Fecal Egg Reduction Count (FERC) should be performed 10-14 days after administration, every 2 years. This is a repeat Fecal Egg Count which, when compared to the first FEC, allows us to assess resistance to the product.

These are only guides! It is essential to consult with your veterinarian about your horse's specific deworming needs.



1 Colonel Brown Rd
Griswold, CT
06351

Phone: 860-376-4373
Fax: 860-376-3263
Email: office@twinpinesequine.com



TWIN PINES EQUINE

VETERINARY SERVICES, LLP

Guide to Parasite Control



**1 Colonel Brown Rd
Griswold, CT 06351**

(860) 376-4373

www.twinpinesequine.com

Strategic Deworming

At Twin Pines Equine, our goal is to create individualized deworming plans for horses based on their parasite load and other factors (herd size, stress, systemic diseases). We assess parasite load through the use of Fecal Egg Counts, which are microscopic evaluations of the manure to determine the amount of parasite eggs present.

Typically we are measuring strongyles (large and small strongyle eggs look similar microscopically, so are counted together), but we can also see ascarid eggs when present, and pinworm eggs if shedding in high amounts.

Using this information, we can divide horses into “high shedders” and “low shedders” of parasite eggs. We can then create strategic deworming schedules, which minimize the frequency of treatment while increasing efficacy. This is a very different way of deworming horses compared to traditional “rotational deworming” or daily deworming.

Why Change Things?

Deworming products are now widely available, relatively cheap and easy to use. This is very convenient, but has resulted in vast overuse and abuse of these products. Just like abuse of antibiotics, abuse of deworming drugs can lead to resistance in population they are used to control. Resistance to deworming drugs has become quite common. There are no new equine deworming drugs in development, so we need to use the products we have very carefully in order to reduce and prevent resistance.

Many studies have shown that the best way to decrease resistance is to “dilute” it. This means that some parasites have to have little exposure to deworming drugs. These parasites stay sensitive to these drugs, so they are able to be killed when necessary. To create this population of “naïve” parasites, we resist deworming some horses in the herd (the “low shedders”) as frequently as others (the “high shedders”). The theory is that “low shedders” are better able to handle their parasite load, likely due to their personal immunity. Twice yearly deworming is all these horses likely need. When we identify horses that are less able to handle their parasite load (the “high shedders”) these horses can and should be dewormed more frequently.

Which Products are Used?

At this time, Ivermectin and Moxidectin are the two most effective deworming drugs on the market, and they are closely related. They make up the cornerstones to our deworming protocols but we must be very careful to not overuse them.

The most current recommendations are to reserve Moxidectin for high shedders of strongyles since it is a stronger deworming product, and use Ivermectin in low shedders. Praziquantal is the only drug effective against tapeworms, so it should be given to all horses once yearly (tapeworms are very rarely shed into manure, so infection must be assumed).

The other drugs available (Pyrantel, Oxibendazole, Fenbendazole) are becoming less effective due to resistance, but we do use them as adjunct treatments in our high shedder protocols, and in certain specific infestations (pinworms, for example, are becoming resistant to Ivermectin, but are generally sensitive to Oxibendazole).