



## *Reducing the risk of tapeworm reinfection after treatment*

The most commonly used drug for the treatment of tapeworm burdens in horses is praziquantel. This is the active ingredient in wormers such as EquiTape. Praziquantel has a very short half-life in the horse's system, meaning it isn't present within the horse for very long – around 24 hours. After this time, the horse is just as likely to become reinfected by tapeworm as it was before worming. For this reason it is especially important to ensure that the risk of reinfection is reduced, as much as possible, for the best chance to achieve and maintain low burden status after worming. From scientific literature and Austin Davis Biologics' various research studies as well as discussions with users of EquiSal Tapeworm testing, we have summarised several key actions to reduce the risk of reinfection after worming.

### *Practice good paddock maintenance*

Poo picking on a regular basis - dung should be completely removed from paddocks and adjacent areas as there is evidence that tapeworm infection could be transferred at least several metres by either surface water or through movement of the tapeworm intermediate host – the oribatid mite.



Muck heaps should be in a separate location to grazing areas. Avoid spreading horse dung on fields destined for grazing or hay making. Practice field rotation and resting where possible.

### *Don't graze away from home*

Avoid allowing horses to graze when away from home paddocks, such as at show grounds.



### *Restrict access to grazing after tapeworm treatment*

It is reported that there is increased tapeworm egg shedding after treatment, therefore restricting horses' access to grazing for 48 hours will reduce contamination of pasture by tapeworm eggs.



### *Other useful tips*

- ✓ Ensure the correct dose of wormer is used for the weight of the horse – weight as determined by a weighbridge is the most accurate.
- ✓ Retest 2 to 3 months after worming treatment to determine whether the saliva score has reduced since the last worming. Additional doses of wormer may be required to break the tapeworm life cycle.

It is evident that certain horses are less prone to tapeworm burdens and graze alongside those with burdens without easily becoming infected. This is the same for other worm species where 80% of all worms are said to be present in 20% of horses.