

Horse Worm Treatment Prescribing Options

Based on Tapeworm test and worm egg count results

Prepared in conjunction with Professor Matthews of the Moredun Research Institute



	ACTION	TAPEWORM TEST	WORM COUNT	FIRST CHOICE TREATMENT	SECOND CHOICE OPTION	THIRD CHOICE OPTION
AUTUMN/ WINTER	Treat possible encysted redworm Tapeworm test.	-ve	N/A	moxidectin	5-day fenbendazole (ONLY if no known resistance*)	
		+ve	N/A	moxidectin + praziquantel	praziquantel [†] <two week + gap> moxidectin	praziquantel [†] <two week + gap> 5-day fenbendazole (ONLY if no known resistance*)
OTHER TIMES OF YEAR	Worm egg count every 6-12 weeks depending on risk. Seek advice from a veterinarian or Suitably Qualified Person. Tapeworm test every 6 months.	-ve or N/A	-ve	no treatment required		
		-ve or N/A	+ve redworm	ivermectin	pyrantel (if no known redworm resistance or treat & test efficacy*)	moxidectin (if circumstances dictate**)
		-ve or N/A	+ve roundworm	fenbendazole (check efficacy after treatment*)	pyrantel (check efficacy after treatment*)	
		+ve	-ve	praziquantel [†]	double dose pyrantel	ivermectin + praziquantel
		+ve	+ve redworm	ivermectin + praziquantel	double dose pyrantel (if no known redworm resistance or treat & test efficacy*)	moxidectin + praziquantel (if circumstances dictate**)
		+ve	+ve redworm +ve roundworm	double dose pyrantel (if no known redworm resistance or treat & test efficacy*)	ivermectin + praziquantel (if no known roundworm resistance or treat & test efficacy*)	

N/A - not applicable

[†] Single chemical option available only through a veterinary surgeon

*seek advice from prescriber on efficacy testing after treatment

**seek advice from vet or Suitably Qualified Person on use of moxidectin outwith autumn/winter

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Resistance Status of the Five Main Wormers

available to treat horses in the UK

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DRUG	Adult small redworm (Cyathostomins)	Encysted small redworm (Cyathostomins)	Large redworm (Strongylus vulgaris)	Larval large redworm (Strongylus vulgaris)	Roundworm (Parascaris equorum)	Tapeworm (Anoplocephala spp.)	Pinworm (Oxyuris equi)	Lungworm (Dictyocaulus arnfieldi)	Liver fluke (Fasciola hepatica)	Threadworm (Strongyloides)	Bot (Gasterophilus spp.)	NB: not a horse worm
FENBENDAZOLE	✓	✓ ⁵	✓	✓ ⁵	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	
PYRANTEL	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓ ²	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	
IVERMECTIN	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
MOXIDECTIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
PRAZIQUANTEL	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	

- No known resistance
- ✓ Licensed
- ⁵ 5-day course
- ² Double dose
- ✗ Not licensed

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Pink - redworm or roundworm resistance commonly reported in published studies. Measured as no/low worm egg count reduction after wormer treatment

Yellow - shortened redworm egg reappearance period after treatment reported in all recent UK published studies.

Dark orange – resistance reported as measured by no/low redworm egg count reduction after treatment. Prevalence of pyrantel resistance in redworm varies between study populations in published studies.

Lime green – anecdotal reports of reduced wormer effectiveness in these species. No published efficacy studies.