



Worming Young stock

Raising youngsters provides the hopes and dreams of the future. Many owners will ensure no stone is left unturned when it comes to making sure they reach their true potential. Foals are born with no immunity to worm infestation and this natural immunity can take years to reach it's maximum. Youngsters are therefore at high risk of developing large worm burdens and consequentially permanent damage. They are also more susceptible to developing high populations of worms resistant to our wormers. Standard chemical worming programmes do not provide adequate coverage for foals or young stock as they assume a certain level of natural immunity.

Higher risk foals should be wormed once a month from 1 month of age. (Use the weight tape or consult the vet about the approximate weight of the foal in order to give the foal the correct dosage).

At 6mths of age the wormer used should also be effective against tapeworm. From 6 months of age the foal can be slotted into your standard/yearling worming programme.

With such widespread resistance to the Benzimidazoles eg Panacur there is probably little use in using this unless you can prove good sensitivity to it.

Therefore the two sub-classes of wormers most commonly used in foals are the ivermectin and pyrantel groups see below for trade names. Always read the data sheet for safety warnings, contra-indications and licensed treatments prior to treating.

Active ingredient	Product names
Pyrantel	Exodus, Strongid P, Pyratape, Provid, Embotape,
Ivermectin	Eqvalan, Noromectin, Maximec, Eraquell, Annimec, Vectin, Furexel



NB Equest Pramox must not be given to foals less than 7 months old or to pregnant/lactating mares. Equest should not be given to foals less than 5 months old.

While selective treatment after worm egg counts is currently not generally recommended for a yearling or foals, faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT) are useful in this age group to help identify which wormers are likely to be effective, particularly against *Parascaris equorum*. Premises with numerous foals would be well advised to be carrying out FECRT on a number of the foals at least once a year to check the effectiveness of the wormers being used and alter the program accordingly. This involves taking a worm egg count immediately prior to and then 2 weeks following worming and comparing the results. For more information on FECRT please read our brochure on worm egg counts or look at the website www.equitait.com.

One regime would be to treat foals using a pyrantel based product at 1 month of age then monthly until an ivermectin based product at 5 months of age and a double dose of a pyrantel based product at 6 months of age before slotting them into an adult based program, whilst also utilising FECRT to check for resistance at least once a year.