

Horses & Parasites



PARASITES ARE BAD NEWS!

- Can occur in young and mature horses
- Can contribute to unthrifty condition, weight loss and poor performance
- Damage to vital organs due to migration through tissues
- Colic & sometimes death

Management is key to prevent parasite overload in horses !

TIPS FOR YOUR BARN

- Roundworm eggs can survive indoors on stall walls for many years
- Clean manure from stalls daily
- Scrub & disinfect stalls in between occupants

Helps in the Prevention of Parasites!

CONSULT YOUR VET!

- Work with your vet to develop an appropriate deworming schedule for your horse
- Inappropriate use of dewormers increases the risk of resistance - now a major problem for controlling horse parasites
- Annual Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) performed in summer will monitor the deworming program

Collect feces and test it for eggs before and 10-14 days after treatment!

TIPS FOR YOUR Paddock

- Clean manure from paddocks twice a week
- Harrow pastures only when it is hot and dry - Never when it is warm & moist!
- Separate pastures for young horses (under 2 years) and adult horses (above 2 years)
- Avoid overcrowding and overgrazing pastures

Helps in the Prevention of Small Strongyles!



How to Collect a Fecal Sample

- 1 Turn a zip-lock plastic bag inside out over your hand.
- 2 With your hand in the bag, pick up a fresh fecal mass.
- 3 With your other hand, pull the zip lock bag over your hand - turning the bag right side out. The feces are now in the bag!
- 4 Zip the bag and place that bag in another zipped bag.
- 5 Write the date and horse's name on the bag.

REMEMBER!

Deliver your fecal sample to the vet within 48 hours!

Store fecal samples in a fridge. DO NOT place in freezer or leave it in your car. Excess heat or cold can kill the parasites - defeating the purpose!