



Pioneer Equine Hospital Recommended Deworming Schedule

Adult Horse Schedule

- ❖ Low Shedders (<200 EPG – eggs per gram of manure)
 - **Fecal Egg Count** performed prior to deworming in spring (ideally spring and fall)
 - Spring (March) – ivermectin (Equell[®], Zimectrin[®], Rotectin[®], IverCare[®], etc), moxidectin (Equest[®]), or double-dose fenbendazole for 5 days (Panacur[®] PowerPak)
 - Fall (October) – ivermectin w/ praziquantel (Equimax[®], Zimectrin Gold[®]) or moxidectin with praziquantel (Equest Pramox[®])
- ❖ Moderate Shedders (200 – 500 EPG)
 - **Fecal Egg Count** performed prior to deworming in spring (ideally spring and fall)
 - Spring (March) – ivermectin (Equell[®], Zimectrin[®], Rotectin[®], IverCare[®], etc), moxidectin (Equest[®]), or double-dose fenbendazole for 5 days (Panacur[®] PowerPak)
 - Late Summer (July) – pyrantel pamoate (Strongid paste[®], TapeCare Plus[®], etc), fenbendazole (Panacur[®], Safe-Guard[®])
 - Early Winter (November) – ivermectin w/ praziquantel (Equimax[®], Zimectrin Gold[®]) or moxidectin with praziquantel (Equest Pramox[®])
- ❖ High Shedders (>500 EPG)
 - **Fecal Egg Count** performed prior to deworming in spring and fall to monitor for signs of resistance
 - Spring (March) – ivermectin (Equell[®], Zimectrin[®], Rotectin[®], IverCare[®], etc), moxidectin (Equest[®]) or double-dose of fenbendazole for 5 days (Panacur[®] PowerPak)
 - Summer (June) – pyrantel pamoate (Strongid paste[®], TapeCare Plus[®], etc), fenbendazole (Panacur, SafeGuard[®]) or Oxibendazole (Anthelcide[®])
 - Fall (September) – ivermectin w/ praziquantel (Equimax[®], Zimectrin Gold[®]) or moxidectin with praziquantel (Equest Pramox[®])
 - Winter (December) – pyrantel pamoate (Strongid paste[®], TapeCare Plus[®], etc), fenbendazole (Panacur[®], SafeGuard[®]) or Oxibendazole (Anthelcide[®])
- ❖ Pregnant Mares
 - Deworm as usual, but on the day of foaling deworm with ivermectin w/ praziquantel (Equimax[®], Zimectrin Gold[®]) or moxidectin with praziquantel (Equest Pramox[®]).

Foal Schedule

- ❖ 2 months of age – ivermectin (Equell[®], Zimectrin[®], Rotectin[®], IverCare[®], etc)
- ❖ 4 months – oxibendazole (Anthelcide EQ[®])
 - Optimally treat with pyrantel pamoate (Strongid[®]) at 5 months
- ❖ 6 months – moxidectin with praziquantel (Equest Pramox[®])
- ❖ 8 months – pyrantel pamoate (Strongid[®])
 - Optimally treat with fenbendazole (Panacur[®], SafeGuard[®]) at 9 months
- ❖ 10 months – ivermectin (Equell[®], Zimectrin[®], Rotectin[®], IverCare[®], etc)
- ❖ 12 months – fenbendazole (Panacur[®], SafeGuard[®])

Daily Deworming

* This involves the daily administration of pyrantel pamoate (Strongid C[®]), as well as ivermectin (Equell[®]) administered in the spring and ivermectin with praziquantel (Equimax[®]) administered in the fall. Daily deworming provides good deworming results if horses can be segregated for their daily feeding. Fecal egg counts should still be performed every 6 months to 1 year. Foals can be started after on this program once they reach 2 – 3 months of age.

Deworming Protocol Guidelines

Some of the important points and recommendations are:

1. Non-chemical parasite management:
 - ❖ Rotate pastures
 - ❖ Cross graze pastures with ruminants if possible
 - ❖ Remove manure frequently
 - ❖ Harrow/drag pastures in hot/dry weather and keep horses out for 2 months
 - ❖ Avoid overstocking pastures
2. Deworming schedules (in general):
 - ❖ Deworm foals every two months, starting at 2 months of age, for the first year of their life.
 - ❖ Individual horses will often require different deworming programs, even if living in the same or similar environments.
3. Measure the success of parasite control by doing fecal analysis at least once a year.
 - ❖ Fecal floatation—an estimate of the parasite eggs in the horse
 - Talk to your veterinarian before doing a fecal analysis to be sure enough time has passed since your horse's last deworming for eggs to have reappeared in the feces. This Egg Reappearance Period differs depending on the dewormer used.
 - ❖ Fecal egg count reduction test—worm egg count should decrease 90% when measured 14 days after deworming.
4. Eliminate tapeworms from horses once a year with use of a dewormer containing praziquantel.
5. Small strongyles (usually a pasture parasite) in their larval stage are resistant to many dewormers. In their encysted form, they are resistant to all but moxidectin (Equest[®]) or a double dose of fenbendazole for 5 consecutive days (Panacur[®] PowerPak). Treat for the encysted form in winter or early spring and keep yearlings separated; they tend to shed the most small strongyles.
6. Don't use the same pasture or paddocks year after year for mares and foals. This allows build up of a high level of ascarid eggs, which are hardy and can live for years in the environment (even stalls).

Note: Involving your veterinarian in formulating your deworming program is essential to ensure you have an effective program tailored specifically to the needs of your individual horses.