

(360) 794-9255

9812 215<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE • Snohomish, WA 98290

www.cedarbrookvet.com



## De-Worming Your Horse:

### A Guide from Cedarbrook Veterinary Care

Prior to starting any de-worming program it is a good idea to do a **quantitative fecal float** (known as a fecal egg count) to determine your horse's current parasite load and which de-worming program will be best for your horse. Cedarbrook Veterinary Care offers this service, please see our website for details.

If the initial fecal float is negative for ova and parasites, we recommend **alternating a chemical de-wormer and a fecal float every three months**. For example, a chemical de-wormer will be used twice a year and a fecal float will be performed twice a year. This is recommended as long as the fecal float results continue to be negative.

It is important to keep in mind that daily manure management, pasture rotation, and consistent parasite management of all horses in the herd is also recommended. **Dynamite Herbal Tonic** can be used at the fecal float intervals to help horses remain parasite free.

#### Some important notes:

- Fecal float results/Fecal egg counts: 0=Negative, 1=Rare, under 10=Few, under 20=Moderate, 20-50 treatment depends on history, over 50=Many
- For a few to moderate positive fecal we recommend using a routine de-wormer and rechecking the fecal in 2-4 weeks. Rotate the type of de-wormer used (see Suggested De-Worming Schedule below) or use Ivermectin+Praziquantel/Equimax if you are de-worming during the fall/winter months.
- For a fecal with high counts we recommend a Panacur Powerpack and a recheck fecal in 2-4 weeks. If the horse has not been de-wormed in over one year or has an unknown history, it may be best to start with a dose of Ivermectin two weeks prior to the Panacur Powerpack due to risk of impaction colic. Please consult Cedarbrook Veterinary Care if this is the case.
- If the second fecal float also comes back positive then it is best to discuss your de-worming program and individual situation with Cedarbrook Veterinary Care to help determine the best plan to keep your horse fecal negative.

### Suggested De-worming Schedule

Winter (December 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>): After the first frost of the year it is recommended to de-worm with Equimax (Ivermectin + Praziquantel)

Spring (March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>): Quantitative fecal float

Summer (June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>): Strongid (Pyrantel), Panacur (Fenbendazole), or Quest (*PLEASE NOTE: Do not use Moxidectin in minis/ponies due to the narrow margin of safety and the risk of overdose.*)

Fall (September 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>): Quantitative fecal float

*The pros and cons of all medications (including de-wormers) you give to your horse should be weighed because of the risks of side effects, systemic stress, and environmental impacts of pharmaceutical use. Untreated parasite loads can cause colic, diarrhea, malnutrition and in some cases death, so we are not advocating that you don't de-worm your horse! Frequent fecal floats are very important if you are not de-worming every three months (and are important to do at least annually even if you are); one negative fecal float does not mean your horse is parasite free, repetitive negative fecals are necessary.*