

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HORSE'S DEWORMING ID?

There are many things that make up your horse's identity. As horse owners, it is your responsibility to make sure internal parasites are not one of them. Individualized Deworming (ID) is an advanced approach to parasite control based on the knowledge that every horse has a unique set of conditions and needs. With the help of a veterinarian, you can create an ID plan that helps your horse stay healthy. A veterinarian is your best ally when it comes to uncovering each horse's ID and keeping it in top health and performance ready. There are four easy-to-follow steps to the ID program.

1 ESTABLISH BASELINE EGG COUNTS

A veterinarian should perform a Fecal Egg Count (FEC) to determine the horse's parasite status. This will establish whether your current deworming program is working properly. FECs should be evaluated annually. Horses with a higher risk of parasite exposure should have more frequent FECs. Early spring is a great time to begin this process. Assessing the shedding level of individuals within the herd identifies horses that pose the greatest risk of exposing others to parasite infection and provides information needed to form a tailored strategy. Less than 200 eggs per gram may indicate low risk, while greater than 500 eggs per gram may indicate a horse is at a higher risk of spreading infection.

2 MEASURE SHEDDING LEVELS

A veterinarian should perform FECs on the rest of the herd, or at least 10% of the herd if it is very large, to determine the levels of parasite shedding. Fecal Egg Reduction Tests (FERT) should be performed on individual horses or 10% of the herd in a large operation to determine if the current dewormer is performing correctly. The initial fecal egg count should be performed prior to deworming and again 14 days or so following deworming to determine if the current dewormer is effective. Less than 200 eggs per gram may indicate low parasite risk, while greater than 500 eggs per gram may indicate a horse is at a higher risk of spreading infection.

3 KNOW YOUR VARIABLES

Risk evaluation is integral to any successful deworming strategy. Before deworming in spring, work with a veterinarian to analyze your horse's parasite exposure risk. All horses carry unique risk factors that affect their vulnerability to parasites. A few of these risk factors include age of the horse, climate cycle, manure management, pasture rotation, types of pastures, how and where the horse is fed, the use of the horse, etc.

4 DETERMINE YOUR HORSE'S ID

A veterinarian will analyze the data collected from the horse, herd and farm to customize an easy-to-follow plan that fits the individual needs of the horse. No matter what plan you follow, it's important to monitor the success with regular FECs and risk factor evaluations. This will help detect parasite resistance. Depending on the horse's risk assessment, veterinarians recommend deworming with an anthelmintic such as QUEST® (*moxidectin*) or QUEST® Plus (*moxidectin/praziquantel*) in the spring. Timing may vary between February and April depending on the regional climate where the horse is located. Frequency and timing of deworming should be determined by the veterinarian based on what the horse needs.



PARASITE RISK CHECKLIST

- Age of Horse
- Local Climate Cycle
- Manure Removal
- Pasture Rotation
- Problem Parasites
- Transportation
- Horse Dentistry
- Type of Pasture
 - o Lush
 - o Overgrazed
 - o Dry Lot
 - o Mixture
- Management
 - o Individual Stalls
 - o Individual Pastures
 - o Small Group Pastures
 - o Large Group Pastures
- Feeding
 - o Individually or in Groups
 - o Off the Ground
 - o On the Ground
- Use of Horse
 - o Race or Performance
 - o Show
 - o Pleasure Riding
 - o Companion



Scan the QR code to assess your horse's risk & sign up for email reminders or go to: www.idmyhorse.com/risk_assessment.html

