



SIMPLE STEPS FOR EASY AND EFFECTIVE ROTATIONAL WORMING FOR YOUR HORSE

Worms can cause a variety of problems in horses from colic and weight loss to anaemia and skin lesions. For this reason, regular effective rotational worming is an essential part of every horse's healthcare. The correct rotational strategy can help to delay the development of resistance and prevent your horse suffering from worm related diseases.

When choosing a worming product for your horse, it is important to **rotate the active ingredient**, not just brands or box colours (this is a very common mistake!). For your horse's rotational worming program to be effective, you must rotate between a 'mectin' (eg *Abamectin*, *Moxidectin*, *Ivermectin*) based wormer and an 'azole' (eg *Oxfendazole*) based wormer.

In the past, it has been recommended to change wormers every time you wormed your horse. This is no longer considered to be good practice. To help delay the onset of resistance, a **SLOW ROTATION** is recommended. This means using one class of active ingredient this year (eg *Oxfendazole*) and then using a different class of active ingredient (eg *Abamectin*) next year. Easy!

Studies have shown that most horse owners (and vets!) tend to underestimate their horses' weight. There are two important reasons not to under-dose your horse with worming product. Firstly, if an insufficient dose is given, the effectiveness of the worming product is compromised and your horse may be at risk of worm related disease. Secondly, under-dosing allows for the development of resistance. Please contact the clinic for assistance in accurately estimating your horse's weight.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE is to have a faecal float done to measure worm egg counts. Based on this horses may or may not need to be wormed. It is good practice to worm all horses on the property with the same product at the same time. It is also important to worm horses that are new to the property (this includes mares returning from stud). As there are no non-mectin based wormers effective against bots, we recommend that during your horses' 'azole' rotational year, you worm your horse with a 'mectin' based wormer in May and late August to control these worms.

It is important to remember that all worming products are not created equal. Some 'azole' based wormers have widespread resistance. For this reason, we recommend that you use **Strategy T** in your horses rotational worming program. **Strategy T** is the only 'azole' based wormer that has been shown to have comparable efficacy on the common worms to the 'mectin' based wormers. **Strategy T** uses a unique combination of two worming compounds that act synergistically against the major worms of horses including small strongyles and tapeworms.

If you have any questions regarding your horses rotational worming program, please don't hesitate to contact the clinic and speak to your vet.

Courtesy Virbac Animal Health