



# White Lodge Veterinary Clinic

## Guidance for Testing and Worming Foals and Youngstock

Foals and young horses are more susceptible than adults to being infected by parasites and are more vulnerable to parasite-associated diseases. Therefore, control programmes for youngstock are slightly different compared to adult programmes. Good pasture management is especially important for pastures being grazed by broodmares and foals.

**Ascarids** (round worm) are the most common worms in young foals, and most foals are likely to have a high Ascarid burden. Therefore, we recommend treatment with a 5-day course of Panacur at 6 weeks. This treatment can be repeated at four-week intervals, or alternated with a Pyrantel wormer until the age of 4 months old.

After 6 months of age, immunity to ascarids increases, so the Ascarid burden decreases. However, small redworm and tapeworm infections start to increase. Although WECs do not always detect Ascarid worm eggs, they will detect redworms eggs and will, therefore, guide which wormer to use. In foals 4-9 months old, worm burdens are likely to be high, so we recommend a **WEC and worming every 8 weeks**. The WEC result will determine which wormer to use.

Recently weaned foals and yearlings are at high risk of developing parasite-associated disease. Care should be taken in youngsters (1-3yr olds) in autumn/winter periods as larval small redworms can cause disease, therefore, annual larvicidal treatment is recommended in late autumn/early winter for these youngsters.

Suggested Protocol for Foals and Youngsters	
Age	Testing/Worming
<b>6 weeks – up to 4 months</b>	Treat with 5 days Panacur (fenbendazole) Repeat treatment with Panacur or Pyrantel every 4 weeks
<b>4 – 11 months</b>	Worm egg count (WEC) every 8 weeks to guide worming Worm with recommended wormer every 8 weeks
<b>Yearlings</b>	WEC every 3 months until 18 months old
<b>First winter</b>	Treat for encysted small redworm <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ If 4-6 months Equest</li><li>▪ If &gt;6 months Equest pramox</li></ul>

### WEC Sample Collection

- Collect a small amount of a fresh dropping into a clean bag or pot
- Take the sample from a few different faecal balls of the same dropping
- The sample can be stored in the fridge (will keep 4-5 days if stored correctly)
- The results of the test are usually reported within the same day.