



## Deworming the Foal

Young foals are generally more susceptible to parasites than adult horses. Exposure begins early. One parasite, *Strongyloides westeri*, can be transferred in the mare's milk. Other parasite eggs can be shed in the dam's manure. Therefore **deworming your mare shortly after foaling** with a product effective against *Strongyloides* sp and a wide range of other parasites is recommended as the first step in protecting your foal from an overwhelming load of parasites.

While any worm can affect your foal, the most significant parasites are ascarids, also known as roundworms. Ascarids prey on the have immune systems of horses less than 18 months old and can cause depression, respiratory disease, stunted growth, diarrhoea, constipation and potentially fatal colic. Immature ascarid larvae migrate through the foal's lungs and liver. Heavy burdens of adult roundworms can cause a life-threatening impaction in the foal's small intestines. As the horse matures into his second year of life, he develops a heightened immune response to ascarids, and the threat greatly diminishes.

To ensure your foal stays healthy, the best procedure is to develop a regular parasite control program that never allows a large population of ascarids to become established.

Here are some guidelines:

Deworm with PANACUR® (fenbendazole) Paste for the treatment of **ascarids beginning at 6 - 8 weeks** of age. PANACUR Paste is proven to be highly effective against ascarids and is an extremely safe product for foals. Continue to worm the foal every 4-6 weeks alternating between pyrantel and fenbendazole until the foal is six months old, monitoring with worm counts when worming is due for best practice (See table below). As with threadworm, healthy young horses should develop natural immunity to ascarids at around 2-4 years of age - though cases are not unusual in older horses that have had a poor start in life. Two months after foaling resume three monthly worm egg counts for the mare, treating as necessary.

Use a weight tape to estimate your foal's weight and to ensure accurate dosing of all dewormers.

Most wormers are safe to be used from 6 months of age, around the time your foal is being weaned but always check with your veterinary surgeon prior to administering anything to a foal.

Pick up all manure frequently and dispose of used bedding. The high temperatures generated by composting can kill ascarid eggs.

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## Worming Plan 2019-2020

Date	Mare	Foal
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Foal is born	No worming	No worming
10 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Mare should not be wormed for at least 2 weeks after foaling unless under veterinary supervision	- Single dose of fenbendazole (Panacur) - Worm egg count
Early July 2019	Worm egg count and worm if necessary	- Worm egg count and worm with pyrantel (Strongid-P)
Mid-August 2019		- Worm egg count and worm with fenbendazole (Panacur)
Mid to late September 2019		- Worm egg count and worm with pyrantel (Strongid-P)
End of October 2019	Worm egg count	- Worm count and worm with fenbendazole (Panacur)
<b>10<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Foal is 6 months old</b>		
Mid Jan 2020	Worm for encysted red worm using moxidectin and praziquantel (Equest Pramox)	- Worm for encysted red worm using moxidectin and praziquantel (Equest Pramox)
Early March		- Worm egg count
End of April	Worm egg count	- Worm egg count
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Foal is 1 years old</b>		
Summer	Worm egg count every 3 months	- Worm egg count every 2-3 months depending on previous results