

## The Importance of Preventive Care

We all know the saying that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". This is especially true when it comes to preventive health care in horses. A focus on regular preventive care helps our equine friends stay healthy. It is also a MUCH better plan from a financial aspect. Preventing disease is much more economical than treating disease.

So, what is preventative health care in horses? This includes regular and appropriate: farrier care, core vaccinations, deworming, and dentistry. Target these areas with ninja-like focus and you and your horse will reap the benefits!

This is a summary of what we recommend for vaccinations and deworming in NE Colorado. Remember that when you are deworming, the body weight of the horse should be determined as accurately as possible and the appropriate amount of deworming medication administered for that body weight.

## FOAL CARE

Foals need to be dewormed every 2 months. Moxidectin (Quest) is NOT recommended for use in foals less than 4 months of age (and we do not recommend its use in horses less than a year of age).

2 Months: Anthelcide EQ

4 Months: Pyrantel Pamoate

6 Months: Panacur & Vaccinate with Rabies & Prestige V + WNV

7 Months: Booster Vaccinate with Rabies & Prestige V + WNV

8 Months: Ivermectin (+/- Praziquantel)

10 Months: Pyrantel Pamoate

## YEARLING CARE

Deworm with a Panacur PowerPac and double dose Strongid\* at 12 months of age, then start them on the schedule below for adult athletes (>1 year of age).

\*Double Dose Strongid = Double the Label Dose of Strongid (e.g., 2,000lb dose for a 1,000lb horse)

The most dangerous parasite in young horses (< 1.5yr) are roundworms (ascarids).

## BROODMARE CARE

Confirm Pregnancy at 2 weeks and 4 weeks post breeding

3 months of Pregnancy: Ivermectin

5 months of Pregnancy: Panacur & Vaccinate for EHV-1 (Prodigy)

7 months of Pregnancy: Ivermectin & Vaccinate for EHV-1 (Prodigy)

9 months of Pregnancy: Panacur & Vaccinate for EHV-1 (Prodigy)

10 months of Pregnancy: Ivermectin, Prestige V + WNV, Rabies, StrepGuard w/ Havlogen, Equine Rotavirus, And Vision CD

\*\*\*\*Once a broodmare is open (and is not nursing a foal), target deworm with: A Panacur PowerPac and double dose Strongid.\*\*\*\*

## NEW HORSE CARE

If you have recently acquired an adult horse and you are unsure of its deworming or vaccination history: 1) deworm with a Panacur PowerPac and double dose Strongid and 2) Vaccinate with a 6 way (Prestige V + WNV) and Rabies. It is also wise to isolate this horse from your herd for 30 days. After this period of time, introduce the new horse to the herd and put the new horse on the same program as the rest of the farm.

## ADULT CARE (>1yr Athletes)

Here are my recommendations for adult athletes (not broodmares):

Adults (March) - Deworm with Quest OR a Panacur Power Pac. I recommend deworming with a Panacur PowerPac once every 3 years and then using Quest the other 2 years. Vaccinate with a 6 way (Prestige V + WNV) and Rabies in March as well.

Adults (August) - Vaccinate with Vetera 2XP

Adults (mid-November) - Deworm with Equimax

The most dangerous parasites in adult horses are tapeworms and encysted small strongyles (cyathostomes). These parasites may cause colic so severe it requires colic surgery. So, target deworm for these parasites using the ADULT CARE program above. The other parasites horses are exposed to will also be killed by these two dewormers.

\*\*\*\*The dewormers in the ADULT CARE program are not safe for foals or broodmares, but you can target these parasites once a foal reaches yearling age and during a broodmare's open season (see BROODMARE CARE for details).\*\*\*\*

There is no single deworming program or strategy that can be recommended for all farms. Geographic location, climate, horse density, housing conditions, and other factors need to be taken into account. The parasite load of individual horses and the effectiveness of a parasite control program can be evaluated by fecal egg counts prior to and after deworming. Owners are recommended to consult with their equine veterinarian to develop an effective and comprehensive parasite control program for all horses on a farm.