

Watch out for Worms this Spring

Spring brings more warm and moist weather which are favourable conditions of parasites. Parasites that have braved the winter by hibernating in the soil will be starting to emerge from their slumber, and parasite who have been dormant inside your horse's gut will also be sensing the favourable amount of fresh spring grass passing through the gut. For parasites, it signals the time to breed and multiply.

Horses differ in their natural ability of disrupting the lifecycle of the parasite by suppressing the parasitic egg production. This is known as the horses egg shedding potential.

All things being equal, it is estimated that 50 to 70% of horses suppress the egg production well, and as a result have low egg shedding potential (0 to 200 eggs per gram of poop). 10 to 20% of horses have moderate egg shedding potential (200 to 500 eggs per gram) and 20 to 30% of horses have a high egg shedding potential (500 and above).

Combining this information with regular fecal egg counts (FEC) we can be more specific in our drenching programs, only drenching those horse that have high egg shedding potential, allowing those other horses with high natural parasite immunity to control the worm burden themselves. This approach saves you money by reducing the expense on drenching products. It also slows the emergence of drench resistance by the parasites and reduces the overall burden of parasites on your pasture.

Call in to the Te Puke Veterinary Centre to pick up a sample pottle and gloves, scoop some poop and bring it back to the clinic to have it assessed. Why drench the horses when they don't need it? Test the stench before you drench!

**Purchase Triumph or Genesis Horse Wormer before the 31st January
and go into the draw to win!!**

1st Prize - \$100 Equine Gift Basket
2nd Prize - Grooming Kit and Saddle Blanket



TRIUMPH

PARADE

Genesis
Horse Wormer

T&Cs apply. This promotion is run by the clinic please contact clinic staff for details.