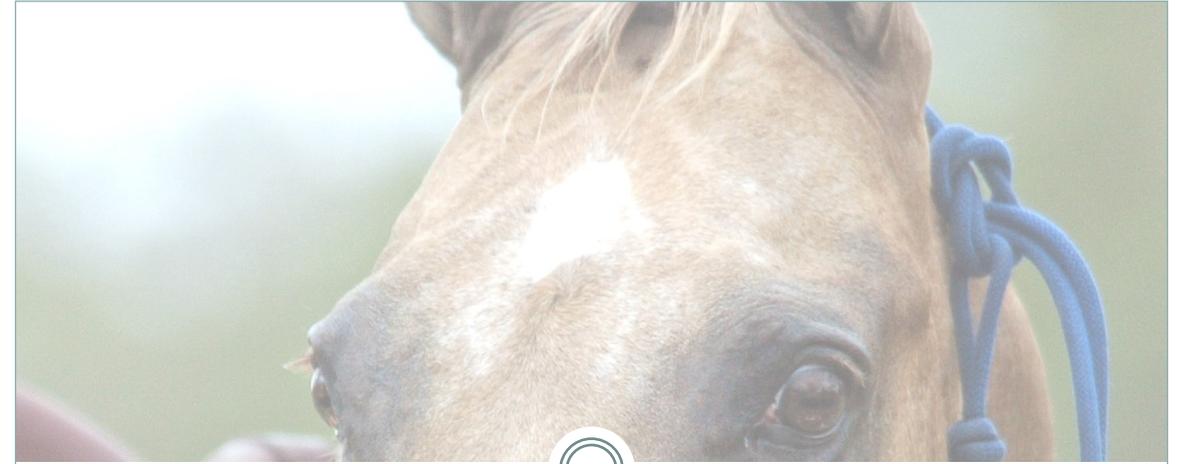


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*Herbal Formula*

## Strategic Worming Treatment Protocol

1. Minimise the risk of parasitic disease:
  - a. Optimise immune function
  - b. Undertake environmental management
2. Control parasite egg shedding:
  - a. Perform periodic faecal egg count (FEC) surveillance:
    - i. To estimate the worm burden and egg contamination potential of an individual horse; and
    - ii. Determine the effectiveness of anthelmintics (using pre and post FEC).
3. Maintain efficacious drugs and avoid further development of anthelmintic resistance:
  - a. Mature horses:
    - i. One - two yearly treatment, if a high FEC - usually spring and autumn
  - b. Foals, weanling, yearlings :
    - i. Four anthelmintic treatments per year



## Strategic Worming Programs

The strategic worming approach is centred on a selective, individualized therapy approach for controlling equine parasites and represents a substantial shift from the more than 40 year old interval-dose, rotational program (Kaplan & Nielsen, 2010). The scale of parasite burden is assessed with the use of faecal egg counts (FEC) and only those with a high parasite burden are treated with an anthelmintic drug. (Kaplan & Nielsen, 2010) (Nielsen, et al., 2016)

Herbal medicine is efficacious across a number of body systems when used in an integrated strategic worming approach that relies less on anthelmintic drugs and aims for control not eradication. A number of herbs have long traditional use as vermifuges (substances that expel parasites), immune enhancing, mucolytics, mucoprotectives and mucous membrane trophorestoratives (a substance that restores the integrity of mucous membranes). Limited, but promising veterinary scientific research has been undertaken supporting traditional use, including vermifuge use, for example, a marked reduction in lambs FEC when treated with an aqueous ethanolic extract of *Fumaria parviflora* ((Hordegen, Hertzberg, Heilmann, Langhans, & Maurer, 2003) .

If you would like more information on strategic worming programs, FECs and the role of herbal medicine in an integrated management approach please contact the following medicinal herbalists specialising in strategic worming programs, or your local veterinarian. These practitioners make use of the Charles Sturt University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to conduct FECs.

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