Petplan Equine

Horse worming FAQ

Why do you need to manage worms in your horse?
Worms can cause weight loss, anaemia, colic and death in horses if not treated.

Which worms affect horses?
The most common types of worm that affect horses are small redworms, roundworms, pinworms, threadworms, tapeworms and bots.

What is a faecal worm egg count (FWEC)?
It is a test that uses a sample of dung from a horse to measure their worm burden. If the results show that worm egg levels are low enough (under 250 eggs per 1g of faeces), the horse does not require worming treatment. This reduces the risk of the horse developing resistance to chemical wormers.

Why is resistance a problem when worming horses?
Some worms have become, and are becoming, resistant to the active ingredients used in wormers, which means the wormer is no longer effective. Only worming when absolutely necessary will help to slow down resistance.

How often should owners use a worm egg count?
Ideally every eight weeks through the spring and summer months.

How else can I manage worms in my horse?
Test for tapeworm twice a year and target encysted small redworm with a Moxidectin product in the autumn. This will also kill botfly larvae.

www.petplanequine.co.uk