

Equine Parasite Control...keeping up with evolution.

Wolf Creek Equine is here to help you with your Equine Parasite Control (EPC) program.

With all the highly effective de-wormers readily available over-the-counter to horse owners, it seems veterinarians are removed from the deworming discussion altogether. **And therein begins the problem.**

Modern de-wormers rank near the top of advances in horse care made in the past 50 years. However, this 50-year-old approach of de-worming (through monthly/seasonal intervals) has mounting evidence of parasite resistance to the de-wormers. This evolution is now moving the equine industry away from this historic approach, and replacing it with surveillance-based parasite control instead. EPC has now become the art of treating just enough animals with the right drug for each treatment.

This is a challenge that requires veterinary involvement to strike a balance between over-and-under treatment.

The different equine parasites that coinfect your horses differ in biology and levels of resistance, making control recommendations for one parasite NOT appropriate for another. In essence, all equine de-wormers have gone from being broad-spectrum to narrow-spectrum. This means each parasite has at least one good and efficacious treatment option.

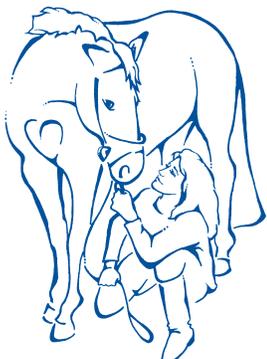
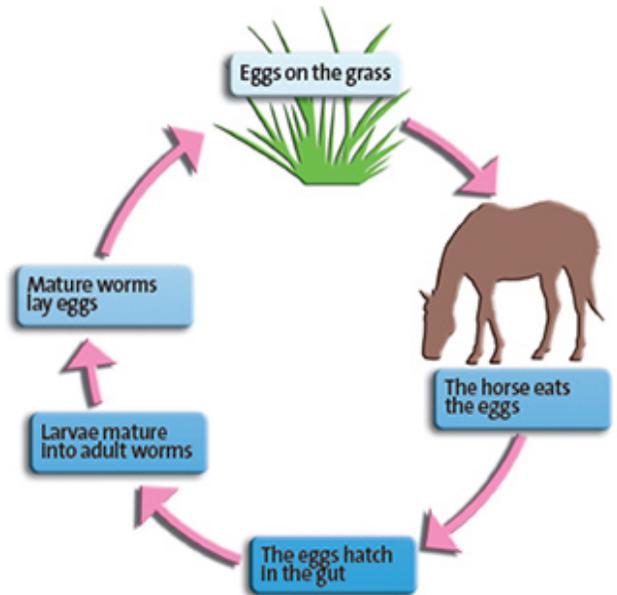
The real challenge for you becomes making the right choice of de-wormer for the specific offensive parasite. **This is carried out with parasite surveillance...counting worm eggs.**

In order to choose the right de-wormer, it is necessary to perform quantitative fecal egg counts. Egg counts provide the veterinarian and owner useful knowledge about treatment and possible resistance on your farm.

By performing systematic surveillance over time, fecal egg counts can reliably identify consistent LOW (<200 epg), MEDIUM (200-500 epg), or HIGH (>500 epg) strongyle egg shedding horses within a herd*. Once this is established, selective therapy can be given to individual animals.

Please ask about enrollment in our Parasite Control Program...we can help you get started!

Call 410-741-1473
wolfcreekequine.com



Wolf Creek Equine Medical and Surgical Hospital

*It is important to note that the mere presence of parasite eggs in the feces does not always equate parasitic disease. The majority of parasites are omnipresent and parasitic disease represents the exception rather than the rule. Recent studies have questioned the host-parasite relationship. Research with parasites in other animals as well as in humans has illustrated that gastrointestinal nematodes possess anti-inflammatory properties and that inflammatory reaction can be modulated by these parasites. Does the horse actually, to some extent, benefit from its parasite burden, if that burden is low? Continued research is hoping to find the answer to this question soon!

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