



Southwest Equine Veterinary Group Newsletter – Summer 2025

INTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL IN HORSES

Keeping your horse healthy starts from the inside out! Internal parasites can cause serious health issues, including weight loss, a dull coat, anemia, diarrhea, and even colic. That's why a well-planned parasite control program is essential.

Small strongyles (*Cyathostomins*) should be considered the primary target of worm control. Other parasites including bots, pinworms, tapeworms, habronema (summer sore) etc. can sometimes cause problems. However, they are often controlled as a consequence of anthelmintic treatment for strongyles.

Emerging problem—wormer resistance

In recent years, wormer resistance is a growing concern in Australia. Instead of frequent, indiscriminate worming with a narrow range of worming product, strategic and targeted approach has been recommended by Australian Equine Veterinary Association in managing equine internal parasite. This not only improves the effectiveness of the treatment, but also a more sustainable in managing the health of your horses in the long run, especially if you have multiple horses on the farm.

When should I worm my horses and how?

In adult horses (3 years or older), strategic and targeted worming approaches have been implemented. So, what does that mean?

Targeted: Treatment is targeted at horses with higher parasite burden (high shedders). 3-4 annual treatments are usually required for these high shedders. The low shedders will only require 1-2 treatment per year, they will act as a refugia to slow down the resistance from developing.

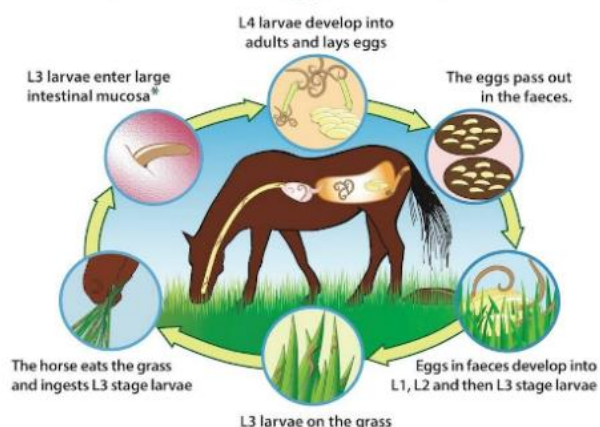
Strategic: Treat at the time of the year when the environment is favorable for the parasite larvae to grow and the eggs to hatch. This is usually spring and autumn.



Is my horse a high shedder or a low shedder? A FEC will tell!

Fecal egg count (FEC) is a practical diagnostic tool in finding out the parasite burden in your horses. FEC is always recommended prior to performing the worming treatment. Doing regular FEC can also tell us if our current worming treatment is effective, and if drug resistance has developed.

Life Cycle of Small Strongyle in Horses



* They may enter hypobiosis and emerge later as L4 larvae, or immediately emerge as L4 larvae. There is a high damage risk if large numbers of encysted L4 emerge from the mucosa at the same time.

The table below is our recommended worming regime for adult horses (> 3 year-old):

	Spring	Summer	Autum	Winter
High shedder FEC >500 epg	Treatment in early spring (e.g. Equest plus tape)	FEC (Or treatment regardless) (e.g. Strategy T, Axis)	Treatment (e.g. Equest plus tape)	FEC (or treatment regardless) (e.g. Strategy T, Axis)
Low shedder FEC <200epg	Treatment in early spring (e.g. Equest plus tape)		Treatment (e.g. Equest plus tape)	

Apart from treating your horses with chemical wormers, pasture management is also very important in controlling parasite burden:

- Manures need to be removed from paddock 2-3 times per week, especially in warmer months.
- Manure spreading is not recommended. Unless the weather is hot and dry.
- Resting / rotating paddocks.
- Mixed grazing with other animals, e.g. cattle.
- Appropriate stocking density—one horse per 2 hectares. For poor quality, unfertilized pasture and unsupplemented horse.

Foals and young horses are different from mature horses, and the worming regime is different from adult horses. A more frequent worming regime is recommended for foals and young horses. Consult your veterinary for worming advice.

Introducing new horses to the property

When you introduce a new horse to the property, especially these with unknown worming history, they may carry a parasite population that's different from those on your farm. To reduce the chance of introducing the resistant parasite to the property, the new horse needs to be quarantined for 14 days. Wormer containing multiple classes of drugs need to be administered, which usually requires two different tubes of wormers (e.g. Equest plus tape/ IverQuantel/Equimax + Axis/Strategy T). Ideally do a FEC before the administration of wormer and 14 days after. Once a significant reduction of FEC obtained, the new horse can be introduced into the herd.

LAMINITIS REMINDER!



We are still seeing lots of horse with laminitis even in summer. This is your timely reminder that despite lots of pasture dying off over summer many laminitis prone horses can still not tolerate access to pasture. If you are concerned that you horse may have laminitis, please get in touch as you are not alone!

NUTRITION TIDBITS!

As pasture has died off towards the end of summer many horse owners are looking to supplement feed their horses to fill the feed gap.

Do you struggle with deciding what and how much to feed your horses? Do you find feed shopping overwhelming with all the products available? Are you confused about what supplements you should be feeding?

The "Ultimate Equine Podcast" is a podcast for horse owners by equine vets. Their recent episode on formulating rations is an excellent overview on how to formulate a ration for your horses.

Look for **"Ep 43. Nutrition Mini Series Part 1: Formulating a diet with Dr Nerida McGilchrist"**



DENTAL HEALTH REMINDER

WHEN DID YOUR HORSE LAST HAVE THEIR TEETH DONE?

Horses should have their teeth checked every 12 months. Autumn is a great time to book in your horse's dental health check. Especially any elderly horses to make sure they don't have any issues going into winter. Some aged horses may even need a check up every 6 months if they have dental pathology present.

NOW AVAILABLE AT SOUTHWEST EQUINE - K-LASER THERAPY!

We are very excited to now be offering a K-Laser therapy to our equine patients at SWE. K-Laser therapy, a form of class IV laser therapy, has gained recognition for its effectiveness in treating a variety of conditions in the medical field- both human and veterinary. The therapy utilizes high-powered lasers to promote healing, reducing pain, and improving circulation, offering a non-invasive and drug-free alternative for treating a range of musculoskeletal and soft tissue injuries. With advancements in veterinary care, K-Laser therapy has become a valuable tool in the management of equine health, demonstrating promising results in performance horses, recreational riders, and even horses in rehabilitation.

How K-laser therapy works

K-Laser therapy uses light energy at specific wavelengths to penetrate deep into tissues, stimulating cellular activity and speeding up the healing process. The laser light is absorbed into cells and accelerates production of energy. This enhanced energy production facilitates tissue repair, reduces inflammation, and stimulates the release of endorphins, which help alleviate pain.

Equine K-Laser therapy typically targets deep tissues, including muscles, tendons, ligaments, and joints, providing effective treatment for a wide range of injuries and conditions, such as:



Image courtesy of <https://www.paulhodgkinson-vetphysio.co.uk/post/k-laser-the-drug-free-surgery-free-solution>

Considerations and limitations of K-laser therapy

While K-Laser therapy has proven to be an effective treatment option for many equine conditions, there are certain limitations to keep in mind. The success of the treatment may depend on the condition being treated, the severity of the injury, and how early the therapy is initiated. Chronic or long-standing injuries may require more extended treatment to see significant results. Class IV K-Laser therapy requires a trained veterinarian/veterinary nurse to ensure the correct application of the laser and to monitor the horse's progress. The therapy should be part of a broader treatment plan that includes appropriate rest, rehabilitation, veterinary care and nutrition. Finally, while K-Laser therapy is beneficial in many cases, it is not a miracle cure for all equine injuries. It is essential to conduct a proper diagnosis and ensure that K-Laser therapy is the appropriate treatment for the specific issue.

CASE STUDY: K-LASER THERAPY LEADS TO SUCCESS

Exzello, had been struggling with chronic back pain, which was impacting his performance on the track. Despite his potential, the discomfort was hindering his ability to race at his best. Veterinarians and Nurses at Southwest Equine worked alongside trainers Harry and Peter Lafferty to treat Exzello to manage his discomfort. K-Laser and Shockwave therapy, were used to target the inflammation and pain in his back. The Laser treatment works by stimulating cellular repair and increasing blood flow, accelerating healing and reducing pain, Shockwave uses sound energy to break down callouses and provide an analgesic effect. After several sessions, Exzello's back pain subsided, and he showed significant improvement in mobility and comfort. Since receiving therapy, Exzello has gone on to win multiple races, showcasing his true ability and allowing him to perform at his peak. Exzello's story stands as a testament to the effectiveness of K-Laser therapy in treating equine injuries and maximising performance.

The success of K-Laser therapy in equine treatment has been highlighted in several real-world cases, particularly in the realm of high-performance horses. By accelerating healing and reducing scar tissue formation, the therapy ensures a smoother recovery process and enhances the horse's long-term mobility and performance.



Photo courtesy of Racing Victoria



SAVE THE DATE – WHATS ON THE CALENDAR FOR SOUTHWEST EQUINE

NEXT Gastroscooping Day – are you worried your horse has ulcers?

Our next Gastroscooping Day will be held on **Wednesday 26th of March** at our clinic in Warrnambool. We offer a significantly reduced price for gastroscooping on these days, \$170 includes an examination, sedation and gastroscopic examination of the stomach to assess your horse for gastric ulcers. If you would like to book in your horse, please call the clinic to secure your spot.

EASTER 2025

Please note the clinic will be closed from **Friday 18th of April until Tuesday 22nd of April** to observe Good Friday and Easter Monday Public Holidays. If you have an emergency during this time that requires assistance, as always contact our on-call vet by calling 0437 380 302.

ANZAC DAY

The clinic will be closed on **Friday 25th of April** for the ANZAC Day Public Holiday

SOUTHWEST EQUINE – HEYTESBURY HORSE TRIALS

Southwest Equine is a major event naming sponsor of the local eventing competition held **over Saturday 26th + Sunday 27th of April** in Scotts Creek. Its an excellent opportunity to see some of the countries elite level eventing horses and riders in the local area.

Warrnambool May Racing Carnival - Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th April and Thursday 1st of May 2025

Good luck to all our clients with horses running in the May Racing Carnival! The lead up to the May Carnival is a very busy time at Southwest Equine so if you have horses that require treatments in preparation for the carnival, please get in early to ensure we can service you.

Please note that the clinic will be closed on **Thursday 1st of May** as we observe the Warrnambool Cup Day Public Holiday. If you have an emergency during this time that requires assistance, as always contact our on-call vet by calling 0437 380 302.

SOUTHWEST EQUINE CIRCUIT DAYS 2025

Southwest Equine will continue to offer our popular regular travel day to various areas around the south-west. These are based on current client demand, so are subject to change. We will, of course, let you know if this occurs. Circuit days are available for non-emergency visits. We are able to bring a range of portable diagnostic equipment, perform health checks, dentals and vaccinations, as well as field surgeries if required.

PORTLAND & SURROUNDS

(including Heywood)

Mondays and Thursdays

HAMILTON & SURROUNDS

(including Coleraine, Casterton and Cavendish)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

TIMBOON & SURROUNDS

(including Camperdown + Terang)

Wednesdays

If you would like to book an appointment for one of our circuit days, please get in touch with the team at the clinic.

REMINDER TO CLIENTS

- If you are paying your account by **electronic bank transfer**, please remember to include your client reference number in the description so that we can allocate the payment to your account. Without identification we have no way of knowing who is paying!
- As always, we really appreciate prompt payment of your invoices in receipt of your bill, this way we can continue to provide you and your horse with veterinary care.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM DR JUNYI WANG!

Junyi was born and raised in China. Growing up with horses in China she developed strong dedication to becoming an equine veterinarian from a young age. She moved to Australia in 2017, and started her veterinary degree at Murdoch University, in Western Australia. During her studies, Junyi also worked at equine referral hospitals in Perth, where she gained valuable experience in intensive care and neonatal medicine.

After graduation Junyi began her veterinary career as a small animal veterinarian in Perth, WA. However, she soon realized her true passion is still with horses. She then moved to Victoria and completed an internship at Bendigo Equine Hospital in 2023. Junyi is interested in all aspects of equine internal medicine and neonatal medicine.

Outside of work, Junyi is a diving enthusiast. She can often be found either in the water or on her way to the ocean (or lake).



SOUTHWEST EQUINE VETERINARY GROUP

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