

**SURGICAL
AMBULATORY
INTERNAL MEDICINE**

**24 HOUR
EMERGENCY
SERVICES**



BLUE RIDGE EQUINE CLINIC

OFFICE HOURS

**WE ARE HAPPY TO
ANNOUNCE THAT WE
ARE SWITCHING BACK
TO OUR SUMMER HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY
7:30 AM - 5 PM**

www.blueridgeequine.com

DEWORMING SEMINAR UPDATE

Inside this issue:

- Deworming Seminar Update from March 1
- Success Story from Dr. Jaci Lawler 2-3
- Dr. Reynolds Cowles @ the Homestead 3
- New 2009-2010 Interns 4
- BREC News & Upcoming Seminars 5
- New Arrivals 6

Thank you to everyone who attended the seminar on parasite control. We had a great turnout and hoped that everyone had fun, and learned a little something at the same time. The response from those attending has been so positive that we are planning future seminars for this summer and fall, visit the web site frequently for the latest updates.

Several issues were covered and many questions were raised. While there is no complete answer that covers all horses, the cliff notes could be summed up as follows:

1 Due to the potential for intestinal parasites to develop resistance, we are recommending a decrease in frequency of deworming. That is based on fecal egg counts from each horse or a representative sampling of horses if you have more than 10 horses in your herd.

2 Due to environmental conditions, it is believed that we can skip deworming in the heat of the summer since excessive heat should kill eggs in the field.

3 Dragging fields to break up manure piles may be detrimental to parasite control by defeating a horse's natural instinct to avoid grazing near manure "roughs". Dragging or harrowing is great if the pasture can then be left empty for at least 2 weeks preferably 4.

We are looking forward to getting more information about how parasites in our area behave and what, if any, resistance may be present in our area currently. With the number of fecals we are receiving we should be

able to compile accurate data that will allow us to be certain that we are giving the best possible care to our horses. One conclusion we should be able to make once we get through a year's worth of sampling is whether Virginia summers are truly hot enough to destroy eggs. Another is, are parasites such as pinworms a more prevalent problem than we currently suppose. This will only be helpful if we continue to receive fecal samples throughout the year so keep them coming.

Tapeworms are still a point of confusion for many. While it is possible to see tapeworm eggs occasionally, there is not a good test to determine for certain if your horse is shedding tapeworm eggs. Generally tapeworms are not considered a significant problem in horses, but occasionally they can cause problems in the young or immunocompromised. We currently recommend deworming for tapes once a year for healthy adults and twice a year for the very old or very young. Options for controlling tapes include pyrantel at double the usual dose, or Praziquantel which is found in Quest plus, Ivermectin Gold, or Equimax.

One final reminder, fecal egg counts are a great tool for gauging parasite burden but there is always the likelihood that even horses with very low counts are still harboring some parasites. These parasites may not be shedding eggs and therefore cannot be detected. This is OK as long as we recognize this and continue to deworm at least twice a year even if egg counts are low.

Written by Dr. Donovan Dagner

