



# QUARTERLY

**intelligent worming**  
The future of equine parasite control

Issue 1  
Winter 2009/2010



## A WARM WELCOME

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the first edition of Intelligent Worming Quarterly. This will give you an insight into the people behind Intelligent Worming; you will get a chance to hear from some of our members, and get a chance to have a say yourself. We will also bring you the latest information in equine parasitology research from some of the country's

leading scientists. Intelligent Worming Quarterly will be published four times annually. We look forward to meeting you while we are out and about at events in 2010, and hearing your feedback on our newsletters. Finally I would like to wish you a prosperous New Year and hope you enjoy receiving our newsletters in the forthcoming year.



### In this issue...

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*Our Managing Director Graham Williams introduces IW Quarterly to you*
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*Intelligent Worming broken down in to bitesize chunks for you to digest*

## New look website and on-line program assessment



We are pleased to announce that Intelligent Worming has a new look and more user friendly website. You will be able to meet more of our members, have your say, and learn more about worms and worm control. As well as the new look, we have designed an on-line program assessment which will allow you to compare your program with other worming options on the market. Please visit [www.intelligentworming.co.uk](http://www.intelligentworming.co.uk)

## Reduced performance in moxidectin

A recent study has shown that moxidectin, the active ingredient in Equest and Equest Pramox is no longer as effective as it used to be. This study unequivocally confirmed ivermectin resistance in *P. equorum*, and a subsequent study wherein alternating treatments of ivermectin and moxidectin failed to reduce egg counts demonstrated that such resistance involved the entire macrocyclic lactone class.

Source Craig R Reinemeyer East Tennessee Clinical Research, Inc., 80 Copper Ridge Farm Road, Rockwood, TN 37854 USA



### Whats in the next edition.....

- How worms are like global warming*
- More from our members*
- Fleas in cats and dogs*
- Tapeworm*
- The importance of getting faecal egg counts right.*



## Meet our customers

**Rebecca Symonds, Owner and Manager  
Lincomb Equestrian Centre**

Lincomb Equestrian centre is a livery yard which is still growing and currently has six full liveries, as well as being home to Rebecca's part owned mare and foal and competition horse of her own. The horses vary greatly ranging from 7 months to 16 years of age, and from a Welsh Section A pony, to a hunter and novice event horse.

Rebecca practices good pasture management; with all horses having their own paddocks and the dung is regularly collected.

The Intelligent Worming Program for Rebecca has raised some controversial issues when comparing to traditional chemical worming programs.

The adult horses on Rebecca's yard are generally on low risk monitoring programs due to indications of low level infections only. The 'normal' chemical worming program that was previously in place would have resulted in over worming the horses. Also, Rebecca signed her foal up to Intelligent Worming as soon as she purchased him. In the three months that he has been on our program we have already detected that the common broad spectrum ivermectin based chemicals are ineffective in treating the worms he has. Had Rebecca simply put the foal on to a chemical program she would have been unable to detect this, and consequently in twelve months she could have had a sick yearling.

Read what Rebecca had to say when we asked how Intelligent Worming was working for her at [www.intelligentworming.co.uk](http://www.intelligentworming.co.uk)

## COMPETITION Win a months supply of Protexin

Worming products are a necessary as part of equine parasite control program, however, recent research has shown that several different types of wormers significantly affect the microbial population in the hindgut as well as the level of acidity present. This microbial imbalance can lead to several problems such as loss of condition, loose stools and even sporadic colic following worming.

Horses rely on the bacteria in the gut to break down food and extract nutrients, however, these bacteria are delicate and prone to disruption. Anthelmintic wormers have a 'scouring' effect on the gut as they remove the worm burden, but this also leads directly to a disruption of the good bacteria. A probiotic such as Equine Premium Quick Fix given at the same time as the wormer and for a further five days minimises this destructive effect, replenishing the good bacteria and maintaining a stable gut.

For more information on probiotics or to find out how to become a stockist visit [www.equinepremium.com](http://www.equinepremium.com) and join the trade area for exclusive offers.

To enter simply email/ send your answers to the following questions to the addresses below:

1. What is another name for small redworms?
2. Why are small redworms reddish in colour?
3. What symptoms can a horse with a redworm infestation show?
4. How can small redworms be detected?
5. How can small redworms be treated?

Send your answers, with your name, address, contact number, email address and the number of horses you have via email to: [helen@epla.co.uk](mailto:helen@epla.co.uk) using the subject of your email as COMPETITION ENTRY 1, or via mail to Helen Coleman, COMPETITION ENTRY 1, INTELLIGENT WORMING, GLIEN HOUSE, CILLEFWR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, JOHNSTOWN, CARMARTHEN SA31 3RB, entries close on 27 March 2010.

## Breed Society Partnership Launched

With our increasing membership, Intelligent Worming is branching out to offer organizations a unique opportunity to work in partnership for the benefit of each other's members.

Benefits for our partners members:

- ✓ Complimentary faecal egg count for each member
- ✓ Editorial for members/ clubs newsletters
- ✓ Each member will receive a copy of the Intelligent Worming Newsletter
- ✓ Consultants to speak at Annual General Meetings/ Other members events
- ✓ Entry into monthly free prize draw

For further information about the partnership please visit [www.intelligentworming.co.uk](http://www.intelligentworming.co.uk) or email [helen@epla.co.uk](mailto:helen@epla.co.uk) or call 01267 223322

We are pleased to welcome the following breed societies into the partnership:-

**The Caspian Breed Society  
United Saddlebred Association-UK**



## Pets Corner

Intelligent Worming not only caters for horses, but we also run a healthy pet scheme for cats and dogs. The scheme has similar benefits for the Intelligent Worming program for horses, with a full documented program combining the most suitable worming and flea treatments for your cat, dog, rabbits and not forgetting de-flea-ing your house!

To include your pet in your automatic scheduling visit [www.intelligentworming.co.uk](http://www.intelligentworming.co.uk) or email [Helen@epla.co.uk](mailto:Helen@epla.co.uk)

# Experts Column

## Worm Watch with Jacqui Matthews

Jacqui Matthews graduated from Glasgow University Veterinary School and has devoted her career to the study of roundworms (nematodes) of horses. Jacqui is currently a member of several committees whose focus is drug resistance control. The equine worms that her group works on are the cyathostomins (small strongyles). Controlling cyathostomins is becoming more and

more difficult as they have the ability to acquire resistance to all drug types developed for use against them. As no new types are appearing on the horizon, it is important that the efficacy of the currently available drugs is retained for as long as possible.

Research indicates that drug resistance develops within worm populations because these populations are extremely large (up to 1,000,000s of worms per group of horses) and because, at the DNA level, these pathogens are very diverse. When powerful drug treatments are applied, these act as a very powerful trigger for adaptation so that even if one in 1,000,000 worms initially has a mutation that allows it to 'resist' the drug, it can survive – this effect builds up over time so that if the

same drug type is administered frequently over time, a significant part of the population will consist of resistant types of worms. At this stage, the drug becomes ineffective – this is either seen as an inability to reduce faecal egg counts after treatment (to levels described when the drug was first licensed) or as parasite-associated clinical disease in horses which have a 'good worming history'.

It's important to use anthelmintic drugs rationally by treating horses at the appropriate time of year with the correct time

of wormer. Also, at certain times of the year, to target horses carrying high burdens of worms and leave those with lower burdens untreated. It is important to remember that not all horses carry similar sizes of burdens: a reasonable rule of thumb is that 20% of horses harbour 80% of the burden. This means that worm control strategies can be based on targeted treatments of individual animals

taking into account level of burden. Faecal egg counts can be used to identify which horses to treat to reduce contamination onto pasture.

*Jacqui's column continues and can be seen in full at [www.intelligentworming.co.uk/expertscolumn](http://www.intelligentworming.co.uk/expertscolumn).*

## “Faecal egg counts can be used to identify which horses to treat to reduce contamination onto pasture”

## Worm of the month

### CYATHOSTOMES



Cyathostomes are a nematode more commonly known as small redworm. They are particularly dangerous to horses and the main cause of clinical disease in equines in the UK.

The adult worm lays eggs in the gut. These eggs are passed in the dung and are visible under a microscope. Faecal egg count analysis is the only definitive method, other than a gut dissection, of detecting an infection.

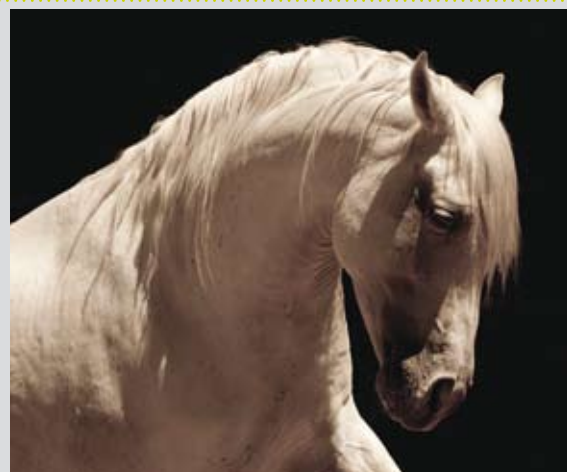
Small redworm can 'encyst' in the gut wall for up to two years. It's life cycle is suspended, it does not lay eggs and cannot be detected by dung analysis. This is one of the reasons for frequent mis-interpretation of 'clear' faecal egg count results.

Many broad spectrum wormers are not effective on the encysted phase. Effective chemicals are moxidectin or a 5 day course of fenbendazole. This is one reason why steps are needed to preserve the effectiveness of moxidectin.

To find out more details about this worm and its lifecycle visit the worm watch pages on our web site.

## DID YOU KNOW...

- ...that tapeworm is on the increase due to the mild wet weather we have had this year.
- ...that ivermectin has a reduced effectiveness on roundworms in many foals and youngstock this year. If you have based your program on ivermectin it may not be working.
- ...we have detected infections this year for our clients that would have been hidden and invisible without the proactive focus of Intelligent Worming
- ...there are over 3,000 horses, ponies and donkeys whose owners are subscribing to Intelligent Worming.



# Meet the team



## Graham Williams **Managing Director**

grahamwilliams@epla.co.uk

Graham joined EPLA as Managing Director in June this year and moved back to his roots in West Wales after living in Kent for over thirty years. He previously worked in Greenwich supporting businesses in winning Olympic contracts and has been a business consultant for the last ten years. Graham is enjoying the challenge of growing the Intelligent Worming membership but also in being able to support Swansea City and the Scarlets rugby team after a long time away. Graham has not had his own horse since childhood but spends his leisure time fishing for wild trout in some very wild and far off places.



## Tracey Lawson **Business Development Executive**

tracelawson@epla.co.uk

Tracey joins the team as a Business Development Executive, having previously worked as an Area Manager for Dengie Horse Feeds, Tracey combines her passion and knowledge of the equine industry together with a successful career within a sales and marketing role. Tracey is thrilled to be joining Intelligent Worming at such an exciting time and welcomes the challenge of continuing to grow the Intelligent Worming portfolio. Tracey is at her happiest when being around or involved with horses, any spare time that she has you will find her riding her TB X-racehorse around the beautiful Welsh countryside!



## Holly Billington **Equine Sales Representative**

holly@epla.co.uk

Holly joined Intelligent Worming in November 2009 having recently graduated from Aston Business School with a Masters degree in Accounting and Finance. Before that she studied for a degree in Equine Studies at Aberystwyth University and whilst there had her dissertation published in the Journal of Equine Science. Holly has worked on a top class showing yard where she trained youngsters and showed horses under saddle. She backed her new horse Ollie in the spring and is hoping to bring him out under saddle at County level in the New Year.

## Bite Size... Bite Size... Bite Size... Bite

Intelligent Worming is a process. The first two years are dedicated to fact finding. We find out the level of contamination in the pasture, the level of worms in your horses; whether there are any encysted worms, or worms that have developed a resistance, and assess many other factors.

In these two years, in order to maintain the integrity of the process, the price of the program usually remains the same. Reduction of treatments occurs over years three to six, with the number of faecal egg counts and wormers reducing as it is proven safe to do so. The price of the program falls accordingly.

The maintenance level of either two or three activities a year will only increase if worms are brought into the environment or the horse changes location. This makes Intelligent Worming not only the best choice but also the best value for money.

## Your Say....

"Thanks for your email, I've found the service you provide excellent and has taken a weight off of my mind! I no longer need to worry about whether i'm worming her with the right thing and when so thank you"

*Emma from Cornwall*

**Query** "I am concerned that Intelligent Worming is more expensive than my old worming program....."

**Response** "Your Intelligent Worming program has been written specifically for you. It is based on the number of wormers and egg counts recommended by the consultant. We can always reduce the cost if you accept an increase in risk. Your consultant can run through this with you so that you have a program you can afford and that works for you"

*Cathy from Buckinghamshire*

"I just wanted to thank you for the recent worm egg count result. I am delighted that my lovely girl is now worm free and look forward to her having a worm free future with your help!"

*Jodie from Essex*