

WINTER WORMING*Hookworm*

Dogs and cats can be affected by many intestinal worm species including tapeworms, hookworms, roundworms and whipworms. These can not only cause diarrhoea and weight loss in your pet, but some species can also be transmitted to humans. It is therefore very important to stay up-to-date with worming your animal friends for the health of both them and yourself. However, worming can be not only difficult to remember but at times it can be difficult to do...I'm sure many of us have had experience with trying to give a worming pill to a wriggling cat or the dog that just seems to keep spitting the pill out!

You might be pleased to know that there are now many worming options that are much easier. **ADVOCATE** is an all-in-one spot-on treatment that is applied once a month to the back of the neck of your cat or dog. It not only protects against roundworm, whipworm and hookworm, but it also protects against fleas, mites, lice and heartworm!

At present, there is no spot-on treatment available for tapeworm in dogs. We therefore add a tapeworm tablet (given once every 3 months) to each Advocate pack. But don't despair! If you have trouble giving your dog the tablet, you can always bring them in and we can do it for you!

Controlling fleas on your cat (as tapeworms are spread by fleas) is usually enough to keep tapeworm under control. Once a year we usually give cats a tapeworm tablet, at the same time as vaccination, just to remove any worms which may have accumulated from the odd flea ingestion. An alternative in cats is to use **PROFENDER** spot-on which only treats worms (and not fleas etc.) but can be easily applied to the back of the neck.

If you find that giving your pet a pill is not too difficult, then we also have **DRONTAL ALL-WORMER** tablets which are given once every 3 months to cats and dogs over 6 months of age. Drontal also comes as a chewable tablet which most pet's seem to think is quite delicious! As these don't treat fleas or heartworm, you may need to combine this with other treatments such as **FRONTLINE** (for fleas) and **PRO-HEART** (once yearly heart worm injection).

*Hookworm in a foot***SLIP INTO SOME SLIPPERS**

As winter sets in, we are once again stocking our beautiful winter woolie slipper-socks expertly knitted by Sally's grandma. Each pair costs you only \$8 and all proceeds go toward the Vermont Cancer Research Group. So while you are keeping warm this winter you are also helping a fantastic cause!

If anyone is able to donate some wool this would also be greatly appreciated.

WEATHERING WINTER WEIGHT LOSS



With the arrival of winter, it can be harder and harder to keep the weight on our equine friends. The lack of grass and increased energy required by your pony to keep them warm means that often weight loss becomes a major issue at this time of year. Anytime you see that your horse is losing weight there are a few simple things which you should consider which may be contributing factors.

Firstly, one of the easiest things to try is to worm your horse. Although many of us may regularly worm every 6-8 weeks, worms can at times become resistant to the products we use. Rotating the type of wormer you use (ie, not always using an ivermectin based drench) is an effective way of reducing the incidence of resistance. There are also some sneaky little worms called cyathostomes which bury into the horse's intestine and are often not killed by many types of wormers. Using EQUEST worming paste (which contains the active ingredient moxidectin) can also be effective in removing cyathostomes. Although we do not recommend using only one type of wormer all the time, using Equest paste at times where your horse is losing weight to help remove cyathostomes can be worth a try. Don't forget to use a tapewormer occasionally as well.

The next thing you need to think about are your horse's teeth. You should aim to have a dentist check your horse's teeth once a year (or more often if you notice that they are dropping lots of food when they are eating or are losing lots of weight).

Putting a rug on your horse to decrease the amount of energy they need to use to keep themselves warm can also make a huge difference.

And then of course the amount of feed available also needs to be considered. As a general rule of thumb a horse requires 2% of its body weight in feed a day to maintain its weight. For a 500kg horse, this means it needs 10kg of feed every day. At least 50% of this needs to be roughage such as good quality hay or chaff. An alternative to daily feeding of hay is to place a round bale of grass hay in your horse's paddock so they can eat as much as they need. In some horses, hay alone may be enough to keep the weight on. In others, they may also need hard-feeding with grains, chaff and/or pellets. A good way of determining if your horse is getting enough feed is to grab your kitchen scales and determine how much a scoop of each type of feed you are using weighs to give you an idea if you are feeding enough. Remember, every time you change or increase your horse's feed you need to do it slowly over a week or two to prevent them from getting diarrhoea or colic. If you would like help in designing a feeding plan specifically for your horse, Kentucky Equine Research have a dietary analysis form which you can fill out and a free feeding regime will be designed. This form is available at our clinic.

If you have considered all of these factors and your horse still seems to be losing weight, a check up from the vet may then be warranted to work out if there are any other problems going on and to ensure that he/she stays healthy over this winter period!



KEEP YOUR PETS
WARM THIS
WINTER WITH A
HEATED PET BED,
OR A
SNUGGLY JACKET
AVAILABLE FROM
THE VET CLINIC