The Pony Club Worm Control Achievement Badge

Guidance notes for Pony Club instructors on the level of knowledge to be expected of successful candidates - a basic understanding of the majority of the key points should merit the award of the worm control badge.

Page references refer to the Achievement Badge Buddy book.

P1
- Know the basic premise for worming horses
- Understand that it is not ‘worm free’ it is ‘free from worm-related disease’

P2
- The candidate should understand that the way we keep our domestic horses can expose them to greater worm challenge than in their natural habitat.

P3/4/5
- The candidate should be able to explain the basic life cycle of worms, point out that each type of worm has a slightly different life cycle and give an example of why this might be important.
- They should be able to cite three or more signs of worm infection.

P6
- The candidate should be able to list the main types of worm affecting horses.

P7
- The candidate should be expected to explain what the term ‘encysted’ refers to and why this stage can pose a serious threat.

P8
- The candidate should be able to describe damage these larvae can cause, differentiating between the worms and the larvae.

P9
- The candidate should clearly mention that large roundworms are a concern in foals and youngstock but that adults tend to develop a level of immunity.
The candidate should be able to explain where pinworms can be found and the type of irritation they can cause.

The candidate should be able to explain the ribbon-like structure of tapeworm and how the segments are passed.
They should mention the risk of colic from tapeworm infection.

The candidate should specify that bots are the larvae of the bot fly rather than worms and explain where they may be found on the horse.
They should also mention that the eggs can be manually removed to help control infection.

The candidate should be able to list at least two other types of worm.

The candidate should be able to list all four main points for worm control.

The candidate should be able to accurately describe the methods for good pasture management.

The candidate should be able to describe what a faecal worm egg count is.
They should be able to quantify what is deemed to be a high burden.
They should be able to outline the key reasons for conducting FWECs.
They should know the types of worm that may not show up in a standard FWEC.

The candidate should be able to list the seasonal worming threats, season by season.
They should be able to cite some points to consider when planning a worm control programme.
They should understand the fact that horses and ponies cope differently with worms even when they are living together.
• They should be able to discuss how a new horse should be managed to prevent worms, and especially resistant worms being brought onto the premises.

P20/21
• The candidate should be able to describe the three ways in which worming drugs can be administered.
• They should mention the importance of selecting the right wormer for the parasites being targeted.
• They should understand that it’s the chemical ingredients of the wormer rather than the brand name that need to be looked at.
• They should know the importance of treating accurately according to body weight.

P22/23
• The candidate should be able to give examples of suitable chemical ingredients to treat the different types and stages of worm listed and the relevant dosing intervals.

P25
• The candidate should demonstrate a basic understanding of wormer resistance.
• They should be able to cite the two major contributors to resistance.