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Chapter 6. Reducing dependence on anthelmintics

With increasing anthelmintic (including multi-drug) resistance, chemical options for controlling parasites in equines have become restricted. Therefore, to preserve remaining anthelmintic effectiveness, it is essential to reduce treatment frequency by applying control programmes that take account of the over-dispersed nature of intestinal helminths in their hosts, particularly in adult animals, where most of the burden is harboured by a small proportion of the population. This approach needs to be balanced with a requirement to minimise the risk of parasite-associated disease in susceptible individuals. Targeted approaches that use monitoring tools and other appropriate tests to direct treatments at epidemiologically relevant times of year, supported by non-chemical measures that reduce the force of infection in the environment, should be applied. Regular (interval) blanket treatments are no longer recommended as these exert a strong selection pressure for anthelmintic resistance (Pfister and van Doorn, 2018).