CANTER Guidelines summary

Introduction

- The CANTER Guidelines provide evidence-based information on the key principles on sustainable equine parasite control.
- Prescribers are encouraged to use these key principles to help inform the prescribing decision-making process and underpin the advice given at the point of sale/prescribing.
- The CANTER Guidelines are a live document to enable review and updates as new evidence emerges.

Chapter 1. Assessing the need for anthelmintic use

- The primary aim of parasite control is to minimise levels of infective parasites on pasture to mitigate the risk of parasite-associated disease.
- Anthelmintics should only be prescribed when necessary.
- Regular (interval) blanket treatments are no longer recommended as these exert a strong selection pressure for anthelmintic resistance.
- Prescribing decisions in adult horses should be based on the factors outlined in the CANTER Risk Assessment, guided by knowledge of parasite lifecycles and epidemiology.

Using monitoring tools effectively

- Monitoring tools are an essential component in determining the need for anthelmintic use.

Risk assessment

- The CANTER Risk Assessment provides an appraisal of parasite transmission potential.

Chapter 2. Selecting and using anthelmintics appropriately

- Selecting the right product utilising the CANTER Risk Assessment is fundamental to ensuring anthelmintic effectiveness.
- Understanding current resistance profiles is core to rational prescribing.
- Correct use of the selected product is essential to reduce the likelihood of resistance development.

Chapter 3. Recording treatment decisions

- Accurate data recording of anthelmintics prescribed and test results informs the decision-making process of anthelmintic prescription.

Chapter 4. Testing for resistance

- It is important to regularly measure the effectiveness of anthelmintics to assess whether the administered products have the expected efficacy.
- Estimating anthelmintic efficacy can be achieved by Faecal Egg Count Reduction Testing.
- Measuring Egg Reappearance Periods is most relevant for ivermectin and moxidectin.

Chapter 5. Reporting lack of efficacy

- Lack of efficacy is the apparent inability of an authorised veterinary medicinal product to have the expected efficacy in an animal, whether or not the product was used in accordance with the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC).
- Anyone who is made aware of a lack of efficacy can report (prescriber, owner/keeper) to the Marketing Authorisation Holder or directly to the VMD.

Chapter 6. Reducing dependence on anthelmintics

The basic principles of sustainable parasite control programmes are:

- Application of non-chemical management strategies to reduce parasite infection pressure in the environment and break worm transmission cycles
- Utilising monitoring tools to inform the need to treat individuals shedding higher levels of eggs.
- Using a risk-based approach to estimate parasite transmission potential in individual equids.

Chapter 7. Environmental considerations

- Residues from anthelmintics could be a contributing factor to the decline in insect populations and their diversity.
- Minimising environmental exposure to anthelmintics can be achieved through practicing good regular pasture management and appropriate use of anthelmintics.

Chapter 8. Behaviour change

- Encouraging equid owners to engage with sustainable equine parasite control requires an overarching understanding of human behaviour change.
- The prescriber role is fundamental to driving sustainable parasite control through quality interactions with equid owners.

Chapter 9. Use of anthelmintics in specific circumstances

- The CANTER Guidelines provide advice for standard parasite control in healthy equids and bespoke advice for prescribers to refer to when there is a known problem, such as pinworms.

- Guidance for quarantine procedures will be released at a later date.

Chapter 10. Considerations for donkeys & hybrids

- Much of the text presented throughout the CANTER Guidelines is equally applicable to donkeys, however specific considerations for donkeys and hybrids species are outlined.