canter
Controlling ANTiparasitic resistance in Equines Responsibly

Guidelines

for sustainable equine parasite control

Key principles of responsible parasite control in equines to address anthelmintic resistance.

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www.canterforhorses.org.uk

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(Reviewed by CANTER Guidelines Group December 2025)

Foreword

Controlling **ANT**iparasitic resistance in **E**quines **R**esponsibly (**CANTER**) is a UK voluntary pan-industry group, established in 2022 to lead a coordinated approach to tackle the critical issue of antiparasitic resistance in equine parasites. It recognises that the development of industry-agreed best practice guidelines is essential to promote consistency in approach to parasite control across all prescriber groups (veterinary surgeons, SQPs and pharmacists) and to work towards the goal of sustainable equine parasite control. CANTER organised a Guidelines Working Group to provide collaborative expertise to develop such evidence-based guidelines for sustainable management of parasites in equines and responsible use of anthelmintics. The overall aim is to promote a coordinated approach to sustainable parasite control across the equine community to help slow the development of antiparasitic resistance.

These guidelines were developed and written by the CANTER Guidelines Working Group and endorsed by the CANTER Core Steering Group, first published in October 2024. The guidelines will be subject to revision as further research and evidence become available. The Guidelines will be reviewed annually to ensure they remain updated.

Developed by the CANTER Guidelines Working Group (2024):

Alison Pyatt (CANTER Chair, August 2023-December 2024), Claire Stratford (CANTER Chair, August 2022-August 2023), Jodie Perrett (CANTER Secretariat, August 2022-December 2024), Corrine Austin, David Rendle, Diane Gilby, Jacqueline Matthews, Jane Hodgkinson, Lucy Grieve, Martin Nielsen, Nikki Bell, Rebekah Sullivan, Simon Daniels, Tamzin Furtado, Tim Mair, Victoria South, Wendy Talbot.

CANTER Guidelines Working Group (2025 review):

Julia Shrubb (CANTER Chair, January 2025-present), Claire Shand (CANTER Communications Subgroup Lead), Corrine Austin, Diane Gilby, Jacqueline Matthews, Jane Hodgkinson, Jodie Perrett, Laura Peachey (CANTER Research Subgroup Lead), Lucy Grieve, Martin Nielsen, Nikki Bell, Rebekah Sullivan, Simon Daniels, Tamzin Furtado, Tim Mair, Victoria South, Wendy Talbot.

Introduction

Regular, all-group administration of anthelmintic medicines over the past several decades has accelerated the development of anthelmintic resistance. Anthelmintic resistance is becoming more widespread across the UK and of increasing clinical significance. With reports of resistance to nearly all UK anthelmintic products authorised for equines, effective control options are limited. Therefore, the widespread use of sustainable parasite control strategies is essential to preserve the efficacy of our existing products and safeguard the health and welfare of our equines, both now and into the future.

Mission statement

These guidelines aim to facilitate practical application of the peer-reviewed science to enable a consistent approach across prescribers for sustainable, responsible and practical strategies for parasite control in equines.

Recommendations developed in the CANTER guidelines aim to:

- Minimise the risk of parasitic disease in equids
- Minimise the development and spread of anthelmintic resistance
- Minimise environmental impacts of anthelmintic use.

CANTER will act as a central resource for the equine community on the sustainable control of equine parasites. These guidelines will inform CANTER's core messages on the responsible use of anthelmintics.

Scope and Evidence

These guidelines include recommendations for management of horses and separately for donkeys and hybrids. The management of youngstock and foals are considered separately, where appropriate.

The focus of the guidelines is the sustainable control of the current main internal parasites of clinical concern, namely cyathostomins, ascarids, and tapeworms. Less

information is included on parasites of lesser prevalence and/or clinical significance, including large strongyles, bots, threadworm and pinworm.

The guidelines provide information on the key principles to consider that will inform the prescribing decision-making process and underpin the advice given at the point of sale/prescribing. However, the recommendations are not intended to be fully comprehensive and additional sources of information are signposted where appropriate. The 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. The guidelines do not include recommendations on management of clinical disease where veterinary advice and intervention should always be sought.

Any treatment recommendations detailed in the guidelines are based on the use of anthelmintic products and active substances with demonstrable efficacy for use in equines.

The guidelines are evidence-based where possible. Where evidence is conflicting or absent, any recommendations are based on the consensus expert opinion of the CANTER Guidelines Working Group.

New chapters will be added as appropriate - two new chapters are in progress for 2026, which include:

- Foals and Youngstock
- Quarantine

Declarations of interest

Individuals or individuals employed by an organisation/company with a financial interest in specific diagnostic tests or specific anthelmintic products were excluded from writing chapters in areas where they or their organisation/company have a financial interest.

Alison Pyatt (Veterinary Medicines Directorate) – Member declared they have no known competing financial interests.

Corrine Austin (Austin Davis Biologics Ltd) – a Director of Austin Davis Biologics Ltd that provides the EquiSal Tapeworm Test, Serum Tapeworm Test and Small Redworm Blood Test as diagnostic services and therefore has a financial interest in specific diagnostic tests.

Claire Shand (Westgate Laboratories) – a Director and SQP at Westgate Laboratories, a diagnostic laboratory providing worm egg counts and other parasitological tests for horses and grazing animals. Westgate Laboratories also provides advice and consultancy on sustainable parasite control to veterinary practices, equine and agricultural retailers, and animal owners. The company does not sell anthelmintic products.

Claire Stratford (Veterinary Medicines Directorate) – Member declared they have no known competing financial interests.

David Rendle FRCVS (former BEVA president, Chair of BEVA Health and Medicines Committee and BEVA Anthelmintic Working Group, author of EVJ and BEVA Guidelines) – involved in the original production of the CANTER Guidelines in 2024. Now works as an independent consultant in equine medicine and therapeutics, work includes consultancy services to several international pharmaceutical companies.

Diane Gilby (EPLA Ltd) – employed by EPLA Ltd which sells parasite detection diagnostic tests to vets, retailers and direct to the public. The company also sells anthelmintics direct to the public and offers parasite management consultancy services.

Jacqueline Matthews (Austin Davis Biologics Ltd/Honorary Professor, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh) – a named inventor of the Small Redworm Blood Test and is employed by Austin Davis Biologics Ltd as Director of Veterinary Science. Austin Davis Biologics Ltd. provides the EquiSal Tapeworm Test, Tapeworm Blood Test and Small Redworm Blood Test as diagnostic services and therefore has a financial interest in specific diagnostic tests.

Jane Hodgkinson (University of Liverpool) – a named inventor of the Small Redworm Blood Test, having had academic involvement at its conception, but does not receive any royalties or personal payments. No known competing financial interests.

Jodie Perrett (Veterinary Medicines Directorate) – Member declared they have no known competing financial interests.

Julia Shrubb (VetPartners Equine Clinical Board Chair and veterinary surgeon at Three Counties Equine Hospital) – VetPartners runs several diagnostic laboratories offering routine equine laboratory diagnostic tests, including limited parasitic diagnostics. Three Counties Equine Hospital comprises of a first opinion practice and referral hospital, offering limited parasite diagnostics (faecal egg counts) and limited anthelmintic sales. Member declares that these activities are very minimal in scope and that there are no known competing financial interests.

Laura Peachey (University of Bristol) – No conflict of interest, with no involvement in selling any tests or treatments, nor any affiliation to a company that does.

Lucy Grieve (BEVA Veterinary Projects Officer) – Trustee for FEEVA and The BHS. Member declared they have no known competing financial interests.

Martin Nielsen (Aarhus University, Denmark) – owns a small percentage share of a company manufacturing and selling automated egg counting technology. However, this is not on the market in the UK and he does not gain financially from this relationship.

Nikki Bell (The Donkey Sanctuary) – Member declared they have no known competing financial interests.

Rebekah Sullivan (SPANA) – Member declared they have no known competing financial interests.

Simon Daniels (Royal Agricultural University) – Member declared they have no known competing financial interests.

Tamzin Furtado (University of Liverpool) – employed by the University of Liverpool, in a post funded by the Horse Trust. Also provides consultancy work for Human Behaviour Change for Life (HBCL), and various teaching/workshops for other groups such as BOVA, Boehringer and Universities. Also involved in various BEVA initiatives including BEVA Anthelmintic Working Group.

Tim Mair (Equine Veterinary Director of CVS Group and veterinary surgeon at Bell Equine Veterinary Clinic) – CVS runs a diagnostic lab (Axiom) which offers routine veterinary laboratory diagnostic tests and limited equine parasite diagnostics. Bell Equine Veterinary Clinic has a first opinion equine practice and a referral hospital. It offers limited equine parasite diagnostics (faecal egg counts) for its clients only. Declared no known competing financial interests.

Victoria South (Victoria South Equine [Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology Consultancy]) – part-time affiliations include external consultant to Boehringer Ingelheim (manufacturer of anthelmintics) and BEVA Anthelmintic Working Group. No other affiliations or potential conflicts of interest.

Wendy Talbot (Zoetis) – employed by Zoetis, the Marketing Authorisation Holders of Equest and Equest Pramox and vetscan Imagyst, a multi-purpose diagnostic platform including faecal egg counts for horses, and therefore has a financial interest in specific equine anthelmintic products and diagnostic tests.