

# 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.**

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.

P10

- The candidate should be able to explain where pinworms can be found and the type of irritation they can cause.

P11

- 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.

P12

- 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.

P13

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

P14

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

P15

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

P16/17

- 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.

P18/19

- 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.

