

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

## HELMINTH CONTROL PROTOCOL FOR FOALS RAISED EXTENSIVELY IN NORTHERN MINAS GERAIS

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Foals undergo an intense body development in the first year of life and in this period are more sensitive and more susceptible to infection by different species of helminths in that period. The objective was to identify the types of helminths that affect the foal since birth until 180 days of age and determine the period of reinfestation of foals after deworming, aiming to obtain data to draw up a helminth control protocol for Mangalarga Marchador foals, raised extensively in Northern Minas Gerais. Were used 17 foals Mangalarga Marchador, kept with their dams in pastures (0.5-0.8 animal unit ha<sup>-1</sup>) from birth to 180 days old. After birth of the foals, the tests of counting eggs per gram of feces (EPG) were realized to 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 120, 150 and 180 days old. Monthly, were realized analysis of color, consistency and fecal pH. The foals received anthelmintic (ivermectin and praziquantel) where the EPG was greater than or equal to 500. It was calculated the anthelmintic effectiveness (Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test-FECRT) and average period between two consecutive deworming. The foals were weighed and evaluated as the body condition score (BCS). Data were analyzed by descriptive statistics and were calculated correlations of Spearman ( $\rho$ ). The foals were highly infested by *Strongyloides westeri* of 30 to 150 days old and small strongyles of 90 to 180 days old. Low infestations of *Parascaris equorum* were noted in the 180 days old. The time to first significant infestation ( $>500$  OPG) was of  $85 \pm 31$  days old. The average anthelmintic effectiveness (FECRT) was 94.3%. The average period for reinfestation was 63 days. The temperature ranged from 15 to 38.2°C and total rainfall was 503 mm<sup>3</sup>. Negative influence of the high maximum temperatures ( $\rho = -0.36$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ) and rainfall ( $\rho = -0.37$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ) was found on the EPG, because high temperature and high rainfall can decrease development and survive of strongyle larvae in the pasture. Body condition score had a positive influence in the period for reinfestation ( $\rho = 0,19$ ;  $p: 0.02$ ). Weight was positively correlated with EPG ( $\rho = 0.48$ ;  $p < 0.0001$ ). Live weight and fecal characteristics were within the normal standards for the species. The foals were dewormed bimonthly, being the first infestation occurs to 60-90 days old.

**Keywords:** equine, parasite control, helminths

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