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| **Worms** | **General Info** | **Life Cycle** | **Damage** |
| Threadworms: *Strongyloides westeri* | * 2-9 mm. long * males not parasitic | * adult females embedded in SI mucosa * produce eggs via parthenogenesis * eggs hatch in GI & larva pass in feces * homogenic cycle (adverse conditions): larva develop into infective larva immediately * heterogenic cycle (favorable conditions): larva develop into free living (outside horse) males and females that mate to produce infective larva | * foals: diarrhea, decreased appetite, weight loss * adults: usually not infected but could have hibernating larva |
| Large Strongyles: *Stronglus vulgaris, S. edentaus, S. equinus* | * ¾-2 in. long * only *S. vulgaris* migrates through arteries * *S. edentatus* & *S. equines* migrate through liver & cause less damage | * adults live in cecum & produce eggs * eggs pass in feces * hatch & develop into infective larva which are ingested * pass to SI & borrow into artery walls (colic) * travel via arteries to LI on way into cecum (arteriole blockage) * larva develop into adults in cecum | * arterial damage can lead to thromboembolic colic (portions of intestine die due to lack of blood supply) * unthriftiness, anorexia, fever, enteritis (inflammation of intestine), diarrhea |
| Small Strongyles | * most common | * adults live in LI & lay eggs * eggs pass in feces & hatch into infective larva * larva are ingested * larva form cysts in gut walls * emerge & develop into adults in LI | * sudden onset of fever & diarrhea * weight loss & edema * most serious if larva emerge in mass from gut wall |
| Lungworms: *Dictyocaulus arnfieldi* | * donkeys * more common in south & southeast | * adults live/mate in bronchi * eggs or larva coughed up & swallowed (eggs may also hatch in SI * larva pass in feces * develop into infective larva which are ingested * penetrate intestine wall * enter lymphatics to blood (vena cava) to heart to lungs | * usually no symptoms * possible chronic cough (young horses) * can lead to bronchitis & bronchopneumonia |
| Ascarids, round worms: *Parascaris equorum* | * spaghetti-like worms * 6-8 in. long | * adults lay eggs in SI that are passed in feces * eggs are ingested & hatch in SI * larva penetrate gut wall & go to liver * migrate to lungs via blood * coughed up & swallowed where they develop in adults in SI | * mostly in foals * can cause impaction * coughing, fever, nasal discharge from migration through lungs * poor hair coat, pot belly, diarrhea |
| Stomach worms: *Habronema muscae* | * ¾ in. long * slender, white * more common in south & southeast | * adults live in stomach * lay eggs that hatch in stomach * larva passed in feces * larva eaten by fly maggots * when maggot develops into fly, larva migrate to fly’s mouth * larva deposited on horse when fly feeds * larva ingested & develop in stomach | * “summer sores” when larva are on worms causing a non-healing wound that itches & looks like proud flesh * usually no symptoms |
| Tapeworms: *Anoplocephala magna, A. perfoliata, Paranoploocephala mamillana* | * segmented worm * up to 2 ft. | * adults live in SI * sections of worm containing eggs passed feces * eggs are released & ingested by beetle mites * horse ingests mites * larva develop into adults in SI | * colic, enteritis (inflammation of intestine) * unthriftiness |
| Pinworms: *Oxyuris equi* | * 2-2½ in. long * white | * adults live in distal LI * females lay eggs by attaching them to horse’s perineum * larva develop in eggs & eggs fall off * larva ingested * larva travel to LI & encyst in ventral colon & cecal walls to mature into adults | * tail itching * little intestinal damage |
| Bots: *Gastrophilus* | * adults look like bees * larva look like red maggots | * bot fly deposits yellow eggs on horse’s legs/shoulders/ belly * horse eats eggs while grooming * eggs hatch in mouth & larva burrow into tongue & gums * larva are swallowed & attach to stomach lining * pass in feces in spring/early summer to pupate into fly | * colic |

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| **Worm** | **Intermediate Host** | **Where** | **Hatches** | **Migrates** | **Mostly Foals** | **Other** |
| Threadworms: *Strongyloides westeri* | none | SI | in SI | no | yes | alternative life cycles |
| Large Strongyles: *Stronglus vulgaris, S. edentaus, S. equinus* | none | SI, LI, cecum | outside horse | via arteries (SI to LI to cecum) | no |  |
| Small Strongyles | none | LI | outside horse | no | no | encyst in SI |
| Lungworms: *Dictyocaulus arnfieldi* | none | SI, blood, lungs | in lungs or SI | coughed up, swallowed, feces, ingested, penetrate intestine to lymphatic sot vena cava to heart to lungs | yes | in donkeys |
| Ascarids, round worms: *Parascaris equorum* | none | SI, liver, blood, lungs | in SI | SI to liver to blood to lungs, coughed up, swallowed, SI | yes |  |
| Stomach worms: *Habronema muscae* | flies | stomach | in stomach | no | yes | non-healing wounds |
| Tapeworms: *Anoplocephala magna, A. perfoliata, Paranoploocephala mamillana* | beetle mites | SI | outside horse | no | no | segmented worm |
| Pinworms: *Oxyuris equi* | none | LI, perineum | outside horse | no | no | encyst in ventral colon & cecal walls |
| Bots: *Gastrophilus* | none | coat, tongue/ gums, stomach | in mouth | burrow into tongue/ gums, swallowed, attach to stomach | no | pass in feces in spring/ early summer |