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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 |