

Can I use my dog wormer?

NO! All animals will suffer from different species of worm, a dog worm will not affect a chicken and a vice-versa there-by drugs are designed to treat different strains so a drug designed for roundworm in dogs may not treat round worm in chickens . With the complicated genetics of animals you will find that what may work for one species will kill another. This is very important. Claims will be made on the internet that people use products such as Panacur as it works for all animals. Indeed this may work on poultry however it is not licensed as such so there is no official guide on how much to dose. Would you give your chicken a teaspoon, or your goose a 1ml dropper? Under worming can cause resistance and over worming can cause long term damage. If you wish to use a product licensed for a different species we advise you consult a vet who will prescribe the relevant product and dose accordingly, or provide you with a prescription for you to collect the medication from a third party (i.e. a registered animal pharmaceutical dispensing counter)

Natural Alternatives

There are many “natural Wormers” on the market, for example apple cider vinegar . Many claim these work. As much as we would not dismiss the claims by these people entirely, we firmly stand by the conclusive results and trials of Medicated Wormers. Medicated products are put through expensive and stringent tests to prove safety, quality and efficacy to ensure the claims they make can be proven. This is assured by a certification by the VMD (veterinary medicines doctorate) and a unique Vm (veterinary medicine) number . They can only be supplied by Suitably Qualified People (vets and SQP’s) and also only from licensed premises. Natural alternatives known as “nutritional supplements” do not follow the same guide lines and can be sold anywhere by anyone, and are generally not seen as being as effective, for these reason we have included a copy of a recent scientific study carried out to prove any effectiveness in a “Natural V Medicated” worming programme. We include this only so you are armed with all the information required to make an educated decision, and remember, the choice will always be yours.

What can I do to help prevent infestation/?

Worms are a very common problem as they can be spread by wild birds and the eggs can be carried by insects, for example an earthworm could digest a worm egg, the chicken eats the earthworm and the egg is right where it wants to be, in the chicken. So it is likely that without prevention your poultry may suffer at some time. There are a few steps you can take to help though. Try and move your poultry on to clean areas as often as possible and avoid muddy areas. Putting pea-shingle down in muddy areas can help to keep feet clean and allow droppings to dry out. Sunlight destroys worm eggs so try and keep the grass short. Feeding from feeders rather than the floor can help as the poultry are less likely to scratch around and pick up the worm eggs (this also good practise for preventing rats and other pests!). Finally use a worming programme!

Call Free!

For more help or advice about any of the products mentioned on this sheet, please call our friendly staff FREE on 0800 056 0002 or you can email us at enquiries@farmandcountrysupplies.co.uk.

The Facts

- All poultry, from Ducks and Geese to chickens and Turkeys need to be wormed not only for egg production but more importantly for there own health.
- **Birds with worms will lose weight, feathers wull become dull and staring and the overall condition of the bird will be poor. Some may become anaemic and the wattles maybecome pale. In rare cases birds may die.**
- Eggs laying by birds with a worm infestation will dramatically reduce or even stop as the bird uses energy to fight the infestation instead on laying.
- **Eggs, if the bird is still laying, may be smaller with poor shell quality and paler yolks**
- A bird can have a worm infestation and show no external signs, so worm for prevention.



Other Guides in the Series relevant to this article

Worm control in Sheep, Worm Control in cattle, Feather Pecking and bullying