

Sandhill Veterinary Services

Game Bird, Poultry and Pigeon care

RICHARD T. BYAS B.Vet. Med., M.R.C.V.S.

GROUSE CLIENT NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2013

Office Opening Times:

Monday-Friday
8.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday
9.00am - 12.00noon

All other times by
appointment only

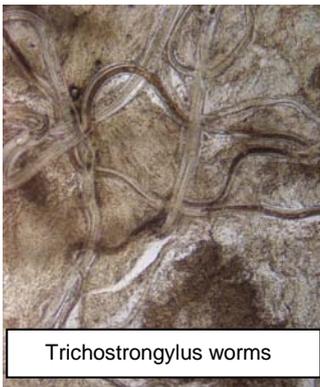
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Trichostrongylus worms

HIGH STRENGTH GRIT 2013-14

We are pleased to inform our grouse clients that we will again be able to provide them with High Strength Grit (10mg / gram) for the coming season. Many of you will know that Douglas Wise MRCVS, who did most of the work in developing the High Strength Grit, has now retired but Sandhill Veterinary Services are continuing to provide what we consider to be a necessary product especially where high worm counts are found on moors.

We have been in contact with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate who have approved the source of the drug we are going to use and Owen's Nutrition have agreed once again to make the product for us. The Flubendazole wormer has now been ordered so the medicated grit will become available later in the autumn.

We believe the following to be 'best practice' when using medicated grit

- 1) Medicated grit should not be used without first determining the parasite status of old and young birds at the end of the shooting season.
- 2) If counts are very low then the birds should not be wormed as this will encourage drug resistance to develop which will cause long-term problems
- 3) If worm burdens are high then the use of High Strength Grit is indicated as low strength grit may not give the worm control required.
- 4) 'Low strength' (1mg / gram) and 'Double Strength' (2mg / gram) grit will be used most effectively between mid-February and July
- 5) High Strength Grit can be used over winter and removed by mid-March
- 6) All grit must be removed at least 28 days before shooting.

The worm counts that we have done so far suggest that in some areas counts have risen markedly since last year. However this is not the case everywhere and as the 'worm count season' is just getting nicely underway it is too early to make any final assessment of overall worm levels this year.

The High Strength Grit will again be available in 16kg packs with each pack sufficient to treat 1000 acres of moor land.

We have been able to maintain the price of the High Strength Grit the same as last year at £400 + VAT per 16kg pack.

We are now happy to take provisional orders for the High Strength Grit which we will confirm once a production date has been set. Early orders allow us to work closely with Owen's Nutrition so that the High Strength Grit can be fitted into their production schedule along side the production of their standard grit.

If you wish to place an order for High Strength Grit please contact the practice on 01845 578710 or e-mail your order to rtb@sandhillvet.co.uk.