



DONKEY SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

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BASIC DONKEY CARE

WORMING

Drench for worms every two to three months. Use an oral worm paste or granules in their feed. Change the worm paste active ingredient at intervals. This prevents a resistance problem developing in the worms. Ensure you choose a worm paste once a year that specifically targets tapeworm check the label. Worm paste is given by weight. For donkeys 10 –12 hands approx weights are -Foals up to one year assume 100kgs. Yearlings to three year olds assume 250kgs. Adult donkeys three years and over assume 300kgs. The exceptions to this are if you have extremely small (9 hands and under) or larger donkeys of 13-14 hands or more, which may weigh around 350kgs or even more. As a general rule it is better to overdose than under dose. There are various methods of estimating your donkey's weight, check with someone knowledgeable. Foals should be first drenched at 8 weeks of age and then 6-8 weekly until 6 months, and 2 monthly thereafter.

HOOF CARE

A farrier approx every two to three months or learn to trim their hooves yourself.

VACCINATIONS

In Australia donkeys are vaccinated against Tetanus and Strangles. If their history is unknown, the best option is to assume they have never been inoculated and start at the beginning. After the first initial inoculation injections are given then inject for strangles every year and every four or five years give a combined strangles and tetanus injection. Equivac the vaccine is available from produce stores and horse equipment shops and vet clinics. Please refer to their leaflet and instructions when giving the injections.

DENTISTRY

Teeth should be checked every one to two years or when they begin to drop partly chewed clumps of grass or hay. Unexpected weight loss can also be a sign of teeth problems. Call a horse dentist to check their teeth. If the donkey is being used for riding or harness then their teeth should be definitely checked before putting a bit in their mouth in case they have wolf teeth, which interfere with the bit and need to be pulled out.

TRAINING

Basic handling should begin shortly after birth. Teach a foal to pick up its hooves and later teach it to lead. Spend time brushing and grooming a foal so it becomes accustomed to being handled. Long reining training may be commenced prior to two years of age and this is basic preparation for harness training. The next step for harness training can be commenced after the donkey reaches two years of age. This is where the young donkey is tied alongside an experienced donkey that bears the weight of the shafts and pulls the cart. Riding and full harness training where the donkey is pulling the vehicle by itself should be started at three to four years of age when their bones have matured enabling them to carry the weight. The bigger donkeys take longer to reach maturity