## Warms make squirm

## (We're falking about parasific worms, not earthworms!)

Okay, so what do you know about worms? They're yucky - correct! They're wriggly correct also! And when it comes to ponies they're very bad news indeed! Worms are bad for ponies in two ways: Firstly ponies have to share the food they eat with the worms in their belly causing the pony to lose weight and secondly worms can cause a pony to become unwell by blocking up important tubes inside its body. All ponies have a tiny amount of worms inside them, but it can be bad news if they spiral out of control.

The most common types of worms that affect ponies are tapeworms, redworms and roundworms. But how on earth did those worms get into a pony in the first place? To answer this question we must look closely at the life cycle of a worm. Take a look at the diagram to find out more...

3. These eggs are then eaten by the ponies as they graze

pony's droppings. They are so tiny that a human eve

> 7. And the whole cvcle starts

while

## Okay, now we understand how worms get into a pony...

(6)

1. Tiny worm eggs are passed out in the

can't see them

again eeeeeeeek!!!

## ...but how can we get rid of worms before they make a pony sick? Removing dung from a pony's field at least twice a week greatly reduces the chance of ponies gobbling up worm eggs as they graze.

Giving a pony worming medication should help to rid the pony of most of its worms but the thing is worms are annoyingly clever! The more times a worming medicine is used, the more the worms get used to it and in the end it hardly bothers them at all! Because of this reason some owners prefer to ask their vet to perform a 'worm egg count' (which is literally putting poop under a microscope and counting the eggs) to decide whether or not the pony needs worming medication. If you think your pony has worms you need to speak to your vet.

2. As the pony's droppings break down the worm eggs are left in the grass

some actual photos of worms Just to make you go

ennununu!

6. The pony passes droppings with worm eggs in it. And here are

