**Supplementary file 4.** A comparison of attitudes to equine helminth infections, their treatment and diagnosis using faecal egg counts (FEC) among UK horse owners practising interval treatments (IT) or targeted treatments (TT). All answers were given on a Likert scale, from 1 (‘strongly agree’) to 5 (‘strongly disagree’). A lower score indicates greater agreement (= less disagreement) on average. Median scores are shown, with arithmetic mean in brackets: where there was no significant difference (‘nsd’) between groups, a single median and mean is given for both groups combined.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Statement | IT | TT | Mann-Whitney U | P-value |
| **Attitudes to worms and treatment** | | | | |
| I believe that dewormers are bad for my horse and want to minimise their use as far as possible | 3 (3.2) | 2 (2.6) | 14830 | <.00001 |
| Drug companies want me to buy as much dewormer as possible and I do not wish to be exploited commercially | 3 (2.8) |  |  | nsd |
| Herbal medicines are safer than conventional medicines and better for the environment too | 4 (3.6) |  |  | nsd |
| Worms are something our horses have to live with and are not always bad for them | 4 (4.0) | 3 (3.3) | 13809 | <.00001 |
| Worms can cause severe illness in horses and we should seek to eliminate them | 2 (2.0) |  |  | nsd |
| I am aware of the emergence of dewormer resistance in horses and this concerns me | 2 (1.9) | 1 (1.5) | 14193 | <.00001 |
| **Use of Faecal Egg Counts (FEC)** | | | | |
| Not enough advice on what to do arrives with FWEC for them to be useful to me | 3 (3.1) | 4 (4.0) | 9180 | <.00001 |
| FWEC are too expensive and provide no advantage over administering dewormer regardless of the result | 3 (3.1) | 5 (4.4) | 5201 | <.00001 |
| Knowing how many eggs are being shed by horses helps me to manage grazing so that horses do not encounter heavily contaminated pasture | 2 (2.5) | 2 (2.1) | 13763 | <.00001 |
| If FEC were quicker and cheaper I would use them more | 3 (2.4) | 3 (3.3) | 11422 | <.00001 |