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27/09/2024

To whom it may concern,

I was called to assess Clay a 20-year-old, crossbreed, grey gelding. According to Ms De Voogd, Clay was dewormed (Abamectin and Praziquantel) early in September and he currently has diarrhoea. She also changed his diet to barley hay due to availability problems with oathay and teff. He does graze the limited grass that is available. Clay is used for light work: a child rides him once per week for 30 minutes for walking and trotting.

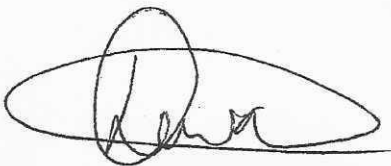
Clay's body condition score is currently 3.5/9 using the South African Polo Association's scoring. It is noted in the document that working horses be kept between 4.5 to 6.

Mucous membranes, heart rate, temperature, gut sounds etc were all normal. Mild faecal soiling was noted on his tail and back legs. The change in diet to barley could contribute to the diarrhoea. Clay also has one suspected melanoma on the ventral rim of the anus as well as under the tail. The owner and I are aware of this. It was first noted in April 2024 and has not progressed. These growths are quite common in older grey horses. Due to the areas affected surgery is not indicated.

A faecal float was performed with fresh faeces. A few strongyloides eggs were noted. Since there were very few eggs, I would not recommend immediate deworming, only in December 2024.

My recommendations for Clay:

- I recommend that he be placed on oat/teff hay of good quality as soon as it is available again. He should be fed hay at least 2,5% of his body weight divided into 2 to 3 meals. He can have one extra scoop of shandy cubes, but the rest of his concentrates should not be increased.
- He is allowed to do light work. By light work I include lunging and in hand walking to maintain muscle mass. Once his condition has improved to 4/9 and his diarrhoea has stopped, he can continue with light riding as described in paragraph one.
- I recommend consultation by an Equine dental technician at least once per year.
- Deworming in December 2024
- I recommend a follow up visit by the SPCA after one month and again in 3 months

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Cowan', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

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