

New Dog Dosing Dates

The veterinary service recently conducted a trial which involved the collection of faeces samples from all dogs in the Islands. The results revealed that 8 dogs were infected with the hydatid tapeworm (*E. granulosus*). Based on these results, the veterinary service has decided to increase the frequency of dog dosing from the 6 weekly interval to a 4 weekly interval (28 days). The rationale behind this change is to make absolutely certain that the frequency of dog dosing is killing the adult tapeworm in the dog's intestine before it reaches sexual maturity and is able to deposit infective eggs into the environment via the dog's faeces. The scientific information available indicates that dosing at 6 weekly intervals should achieve this objective but, in case the tapeworm is behaving differently in the Falkland Islands, a decision has been taken to shorten the periods between dog dosings for at least the remainder of 2011.

The new dates for dog dosing are as follows:

Date	Drug
Wednesday 17 th August 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 14 th September 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 12 th October 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 9 th November 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 7 th December 2011	Droncit
Wednesday 4 th January 2012	Drontal

The only other change to the dosing regime is that all Stanley dog owners will become responsible for dosing their dogs at home, and must telephone/fax/email in to the Veterinary service to confirm that this has been done. This is already the case for MPA/Camp dog owners.

If anyone would like further information on this subject then please do not hesitate to contact the veterinary section of the DoA on 27366 or email sbowles@doa.gov.fk