

Fact Sheet

Providing a Faecal Sample for Worm Egg Counts (WEC)

Introduction

Worm Egg Counts (WEC) are an essential part of your horse's health care routine. They help monitor and manage your horse's internal parasite levels, allowing you and your vet to make informed decisions about whether deworming is necessary. Regular WEC testing helps reduce unnecessary use of wormers, slows the development of resistance in parasites and keeps your horse healthier in the long term.

To ensure you receive accurate and meaningful results, it's important to collect and submit your sample correctly. Follow these steps carefully to get the best outcome.



Procedure

1. Collect Individual Samples

- Take dung from each animal separately – never mix samples from different horses
- Fresh dung is essential, as worm eggs can hatch soon after passing, which can affect accuracy

bag before adding the sample):

- Horse's name
- Your surname
- Date of collection

2. Select the Sample

- From one dung pile, pick 3–4 small balls from different spots
- Mix these together in a clean bag, then take a small handful from this mix for testing

4. Store Correctly

- Keep the sample cool and out of direct sunlight
- If you can't deliver or post it the same day, store it in the fridge and send as soon as possible (ideally on the day of collection)

3. Bag and Label

- Place the small sample inside a small bag, then seal it inside a larger outer bag
- Clearly label the outer bag with (Tip: Label the

5. Receive Your Result

- WEC results are typically available within two days of the laboratory/practice receiving your sample

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This factsheet was created by the VetPartners Equine Team, with assistance from our Marketing Team and Veterinary Regulatory Advisors.

For further information, please contact your local VetPartners Equine Veterinary Practice on:

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Together with our practices, our focus is on providing an excellent service to our equine clients.

No two practices are the same, and we understand and embrace that independent spirit.