



**We offer two levels of Worm Egg Count Plans for your horses.  
The plans cover a 12 month period from sign up.  
You can now sign up online for annual direct debit.**

**WORM EGG COUNT PLAN - STANDARD**

3 x worm egg count tests  
1 x worm egg count reduction test (if needed)  
1 x tapeworm saliva test

**£55**

+ Visit costs (no charge if samples delivered to the practice)

**FREE ADVICE ON WORMER PRODUCTS IF NEEDED**

**WORM EGG COUNT PLAN – PLUS +**

3 x worm egg count tests  
1 x worm egg count reduction test (if needed)  
1 x tapeworm saliva test\*\*  
1 x small red worm blood test

**£85**

+ Visit costs (no charge if samples delivered to the practice)

\*\*can be done at the same time as part of the blood sample for the small red worm test (instead of a separate saliva test)

**FREE ADVICE ON WORMER PRODUCTS IF NEEDED**

**Why do I need to do worm egg count tests (WEC)?**

It is no longer appropriate to just worm horses/ponies on a regular basis without testing.

Each time a wormer is used, the surviving worms are resistant to the drug used. The more you use wormers the more chance there is for resistance to develop in the worm population. Resistance has been reported to all wormers and there are no new ones in development. Resistance is indicated by a reduced egg reappearance period, and/or ineffective worm egg count reduction in response to treatment.

- Only 21% of horses having WECs at Station House Vets last year needed treating
- 80% of the worm burden is carried by 20% of the horse population

Worm egg counts are important as they confirm whether a wormer is required or not, depending on the level of the egg burden at the time. It avoids over worming and potentially causing more resistance by maintaining the number of worms in 'refugia', those that are still sensitive to wormers. It is therefore recommended that instead of just worming on a regular basis, worm egg counts should be initiated.

**When and how often do I need to do worm egg counts?**

The optimum time to perform worm egg counts is in the main grazing season between early March and late October.

The first WEC is done in early March and then every 2-3 months through to October. If you're on the WEC plan you don't need to worry – we'll remind you!



**Station  
House  
Vets**

**Equine Worm Egg Count**

**01653 618303**

### **How do I collect a worm egg count sample?**

The number of eggs in different faecal piles is fairly consistent, BUT it varies within the faecal pile, therefore it is very important that you take at least **4** x samples from different areas within the same pile.

The total sample taken across the 4 samples should be around tennis ball size.



We need your sample from the freshest faecal pile available (ideally less than 12hrs old). Place the sample in a zip lock bag, removing as much air as possible.

**Keep refrigerated once collected.**

### **Where do I take the sample once collected and how quickly?**

Your refrigerated sample needs to be dropped off with us at the practice as soon as possible after it has been taken.

Please let us know that you are dropping a WEC sample off (the day before or on the morning of taking the sample), so we know about it in advance - call 01653 618303 or [worming@stationhousevets.co.uk](mailto:worming@stationhousevets.co.uk)

Samples ideally need to be tested within 48 hours of being taken, so it is important that we know the sample is coming to us in advance, so we can organise the testing within the required timeframe.

### **When will I get the test results?**

Whenever possible, your results will be available within 48 hours (except for over a weekend).

Our equine team will give you a call with the results and advise on appropriate treatment once the WEC test is processed.



### **What do the test results mean?**

The results are reported as the number of eggs per gram.

If the WEC is:

- less than 250 eggs per gram there is no requirement to treat
- more than 250 eggs per gram, our veterinary team will advise which wormer is required

If your horse needs treating, 10-14 days after the wormer has been administered a Worm Egg Count Reduction Test is required.

### **Why would I need a WEC reduction test and how do I do it?**

If your horse needs treating due to a WEC result of 250epg or greater, we advise a WEC reduction test is performed. You collect a sample in exactly the same way as for the WEC test - taking 4 x samples from different areas of one faecal pile.

We perform a WEC in exactly the same way on this sample. The difference between the WEC results before and after treatment is then utilised to calculate the % reduction in these WEC results. We are looking for a 90-95% reduction (depending on the treatment drug used) in the WEC between tests. This indicates there is no resistance to the worming drug used for treatment.

If resistance is detected, then this is important to your horse and any co-grazers as it indicates resistance within the worm population.

- All of the reduction tests done at Station House Vets in 2021 came back as 100% reduction

### **Are any horses/ponies more susceptible to worms?**

Horses under 6 years old and over 16 years old are more susceptible to worms. Some individuals seem to have increased susceptibility to worms, accounting for 80% of the worm burden being carried by 20% of the horse population

**Horses & ponies of all ages should be regularly tested and treated where necessary.**

### **Why are the tests performed between March & October?**

There are three reasons why we test during this period:

- Exposure to worms is increased during the main grazing season from March to October when horses are turned out more often and for longer periods
- Conditions are more favourable for parasite development to occur on the pasture during the grazing season
- Egg shedding from horses is higher during these months than in the winter.



### **What is the tapeworm saliva test?**

This is a test that you can perform yourself very easily and then post the swab directly to the laboratory. All you need, including a prepaid envelope, is included in the kit we will give you.

It is important that your horse has not eaten or been exercised for 30mins before taking the test. This is to ensure the sample collected is not too dilute as salivation increases when eating or being exercised. This test is performed once a year, usually in the Autumn.

Research shows less than 50% of adult horses in UK are infected with adult tapeworms.

**Only 22% of horses tested for tapeworm by Station House Vets in 2021 needed treatment.**



### **What is the small red worm test?**

This is a blood sample which must be taken by one of our vets. It is done once a year, usually between September and December.

Results are usually back within a week and one of the equine team will call you to advise if treatment is required.

### **How will I know when my horse is due testing for worm egg counts?**

When you are on one of our Worm Egg Count Plans, we will remind you that your test is due.

### **The benefits of joining the Worm Egg Count plan**

- Discounted rates for being on the plan rather than paying for each treatment individually
- Annual one-off charge of either £55 for the WEC standard plan or £85 for the WEC Plus plan
- Regular checks to determine if your horse needs treating for worms or not
- We've got you covered - we will send a reminder when your next WEC test is due!
- Peace of mind that you are not over worming or under worming your horse
- Do something positive for your horse, your pasture and the planet!
- You can join the plan at any point in the year and your renewal will be due the same time the following year – a reminder will be sent out just before you are due to renew.

### **How do I join the Worm Egg Count Plan?**

To sign up for annual direct debit online visit :

<https://stationhousevetsequine.easydirectdebits.co.uk/signup/welcome>

Or give the team a call on **01653 618303** to sign up over the 'phone – you'll just need your payment card to make the one-off payment over the phone.