



**Station
House
Vets**

Equine Worm Egg Count

01653 618303

We offer 2 x Worm Egg Count Plans options for your horses

OPTION 1 - Worm Egg Count Plan

OPTION 2 - Worm Egg Count Plan – **Postal Kit**

All plans cover a 12 month period from sign up – or will end sooner if you have used all elements of the plan

Call Carmen or Katie to sign up – 01653 618303

EQUINE Worm Egg Count Plan - Standard

Includes :

- 3 x worm egg count tests
- 1 x worm egg count reduction test (if needed)
- 1 x tapeworm saliva test
- +
- 10% off wormers purchased from us*

£68

*10% off wormers only applies based on advice from a vet following a worm egg count on a plan

FREE ADVICE ON WORMER PRODUCTS
IF NEEDED



**EQUINE Worm Egg Count Plan -
STANDARD POSTAL KIT**

The kit which includes everything for your
- 3 x worm egg count tests including freepost
reply service

Also included in the plan:

- 1 x worm egg count reduction test (if needed)
- 1 x tapeworm saliva test
- +
- 10% off wormers purchased from us*

£86

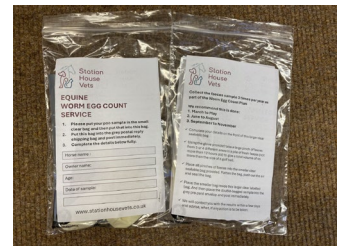
*10% off wormers only applies based on advice from a vet following a worm egg count on a plan

FREE ADVICE ON WORMER PRODUCTS
IF NEEDED



The Postal Plan Kit – for your convenience we offer the chance to post your horse's poo back to us!

Using our Royal Mail Business Reply Service you can post your horse's poo to us. We provide you with a kit which includes everything you need to package and return your three samples to us across the year - by free post! Sign up to the Worm Egg Count Plan Standard – Postal Kit.



We do recommend you **post only Monday to Thursday**.

INFORMATION ON WORM EGG COUNTS & THE TESTING PROCESS

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 worm egg counts at Station House Vets last year needed treating
- 80% of the worm burden is carried by 20% of the horse population



Worm egg counts 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 worm egg count is done in early March and then every 2-3 months through to October. If you're on the Worm Egg Count Plan you don't need to worry – we'll remind you!

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 3 x samples from different areas within the same pile.



The total sample taken across the 3 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. Or if you are on the Standard Postal Kit Plan simply drop your packaged sample in the post box the same day.

We do recommend you keep the sample refrigerated if you are not able to deliver or post the same day.

Where do I take the sample I've collected and how quickly?

Your fresh sample can either be dropped in to the practice the same day or posted to us in the pre-paid envelope the same day (if you are on the postal plan).

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 reception@stationhousevets.co.uk

When will I get the test results?

Whenever possible, your results will be available within 48 hours of receipt (except for over a weekend). Our equine team will give you a call with the results and advise on appropriate treatment once the Worm Egg Count test is processed.



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What do the test results mean?

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

If the worm egg count 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 – one of these is included within your plan.

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

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

We perform a worm egg count in exactly the same way on this sample. The difference between the two results before and after treatment is then utilised to calculate the % reduction in these results. We are looking for a 90-95% reduction (depending on the treatment drug used) in the worm egg count 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 2024 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:

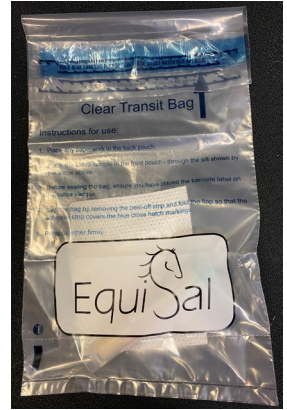
- Exposure to worms is increased during the main grazing season from March to October when horses are turned out more often and for longer periods
- Conditions are more favourable for parasite development to occur on the pasture during the grazing season
- Egg shedding from horses is higher during these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



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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.



Scan to view
tapeworm test video



Scan to view
tapeworm test video

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 by sending an email – so it's worth checking we have your up to date and correct email.

The benefits of joining the Worm Egg Count plan

- Discounted rates for being on the plan rather than paying for each treatment individually
- Convenient payment options
- 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?

Call Carmen or Katie on **01653 618303** to sign up over the 'phone – and they can discuss the various payment options with you.