

# Worm Egg Counts

**This is the most effective and efficient way of monitoring your horses's worm burden and planning your future worming programme.**

**But why?**

**A worm egg count:**

- Identifies the infestation level in your horse
- Can be used to monitor the effectiveness of your worming programme
- Can be used to identify times when worming isn't actually necessary

**What levels are normal?**

A maximum of 200 eggs per gram should be detected in any effective management programme. Worm egg counts of 50-100 per gram need not necessarily be treated, as some level of worm infestation is thought to enhance natural immunity.

**What do you need to do?**

Provide a fresh faecal (poo) sample. It can either be dropped into any of our surgeries or given to one of the vets when they visit. There are collection kits available for you or you can just collect a small sample in a bag and label it with your name and your horse's name.

**Then what?**

We'll have the results back within a day or so usually and we'll give you a ring to let you know what would be the best treatment option and if treatment is needed, then when it should be given.

**And finally...**

Some of the worms are starting to build up resistance (so are not being killed) to certain drugs used in worming products. To check whether your fields have any resistance problems we recommend you take a second faecal sample for worm egg count 2 weeks after using a wormer. The worm egg count should be greatly reduced by this point, however if not, a different drug should be used in the future.

For more information on worming, please read our worming update fact sheet.