

## What is an Equine Wormtest

An Equine WormTest measures the number of worm eggs in the dung sample of your horse.

Monitoring the worm burden of your horse helps to identify if treatment for worms is required. Failure to treat your horse for worms when needed may lead to weight loss, colic, scouring and death as well as the contamination of the paddock. Future grazing of horses in that paddock may expose them to a heavy worm challenge

Appearance alone is not a good indicator that a horse needs treating. Substantial worm burdens can exist in a horse that appears normal. Some horses have a degree of resistance to worms and do not need treatment.

If a horse presents with the clinical symptoms of worms such as tail rubbing, weight loss, scouring or colic consult your veterinarian. Together you may decide to use Wormtest to assess the level of worm infection.

Unnecessary treatment of worms is a waste of time, and money, and may promote the development of worm resistance to a particular drench.

Regular monthly Wormtest monitoring can provide a useful guide to the timing of worm treatment. Every horse, or selected horses from similar age groups, can be tested. Testing should be conducted at crucial times of the year, e.g.

- before moving horses to a new paddock;
- at foaling;
- before considering a summer drench; or
- before releasing new horses onto the property.

The use of Wormtest can help determine the optimal treatment interval for young horses. The effects of worm infection are greater in foals, weanlings or yearlings. Testing pregnant, just foaled and lactating mares can help protect unweaned foals from the effects of worms.

If treatment is ineffective, Wormtest can be used to assess the efficacy of a treatment. Treatment failure may be due to resistance; under dosing or use of an unsuitable drench. Note: Incorrect weight estimation or the failure to administer a paste correctly can also reduce the efficacy of a treatment.

Wormtest can help develop a yearly worming plan and maintain the health of your horse.

### TEST KITS

Kits are available from:

Animal Health Laboratory  
NRE Tas  
165 Westbury Rd  
Prospect TAS 7250  
P: 03 6777 2111

E: [specimenreception@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:specimenreception@nre.tas.gov.au)