

Some basic facts about Faecal Egg Counts - FEC



Monitoring of worm burdens plays an important part in worm control to foster equine health and the prevention of resistance to anthelmintics - the ingredients in the tube used to destroy parasitic worms

FEC tests are available through your vet and are provided in the form of a convenient courier-pack system from Horse Wormers Direct in association with Gribbles Laboratories.

A FEC test gives you an indication of adult parasites in your horse by measuring the number of worm eggs in a dung sample.

What is a FEC Test useful for?

FEC tests can detect the presence of egg-laying adult stages of Small and Large Redworm as well as Large Roundworm.

FEC's are normally reported as eggs per gram (epg). FEC results will help you to target your worming treatments by only dosing horses with a significant worm burden (e.g. >200 epg).

Some horses and foals may require worming at much lower egg counts. Consult your vet for advice.

To check your worming programme is working, you can take a test before and after treatment. A failure to completely reduce the worm burden in your horse may indicate resistance to the type of wormer you used.

Some horses harbour high worm-burdens whilst the majority remain consistently low - known as the 80-20 rule. By incorporating FEC's, high shedding horses can be identified and wormed appropriately, while those with a low burden can be saved a treatment, helping to preserve the efficacy of the wormers available to horse owners.

Eggs are not shed at a constant rate and immature parasites don't lay eggs, so the FEC will only ever provide a snapshot of a horse's adult worm burden at that particular time. FEC's are a useful guide, but they are not the definitive answer.

What parasites can a Faecal Egg Count Test Identify?

Small adult Redworm
Large adult Redworm
Large Roundworm



Larvae
Encysted Small Redworm
Pinworm
Tapeworm
Bots



FEC's don't detect Encysted Redworm, which is the most potentially harmful stage of the redworm parasite. Horses can have burdens in order of several million encysted larvae and yet show a negative or low reading - <100epg. (3) Therefore, you need to strategically drench for the encysted and larval states of redworm at least once a year in late autumn / early winter. | Dowdall et al. (2002) *Veterinary Parasitology* 106, 225-242



FEC Collection Tip: The dung needs to be as fresh as possible and firm. Once in the sealed bag, the eggs will not deteriorate. If an old dung pile is used, then the eggs may have fallen out and a false low reading is given. This could be dangerous if you were planning not to worm on the results of that sample. If there is a delay in getting the sample to the laboratory, store the sample in the fridge. Please select a fresh dung, preferably as it leaves your horse.

MORABEC - FEC (Faecal Egg Count Test) and FECRT (Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test) efficacy testing results

Test 1:

Pony Club Faecal Egg Count Test April 2017

FEC samples tested before drenching showed a high count for Strongyles.

Horses were drenched with Morabec on the 30 April 2017



Gribbles Veterinary Pathology
37-41 Carbine Road
Mt Wellington

Ph: 09 5744701
Fax: 09 5745304

Case No: AU1712347

Report To: Robyn Bates Pharmaceuticals
Quantock
208 Roslyn Road

Animal/Herd: EQUINE
Species: Equine
Breed: Unknown

Age: UNKNOWN
Sex: Unknown

Submitted by: JANINE WALLACE
Submitter ref:
Owner:

Date Sent: 17/04/2017 13:42
Date Received: 19/04/2017 13:42
Date Tested: 19/04/2017 16:02

Notification:
Fax Number:

Phone:

Tests Requested: 10 x Faeces - Horse Faecal Egg Count

Parasitology

Animal ID	Strongyle eggs/gm	Ascarid eggs/gm	Strongyloides eggs/gm
P1	800	Negative	Negative
C1	1400	Negative	Negative
D1	600	Negative	Negative
C2	1000	Negative	Negative
D2	1000	Negative	Negative
A1	1600	Negative	Negative
T1	900	Negative	Negative
D3	700	Negative	Negative
J1	1100	Negative	Negative
P2	1000	Negative	Negative

Test methodology references are available on request. Opinions and interpretations of test results expressed in this report are outside the scope of the laboratory's terms of accreditation. (Note: Results apply only to samples received, on an as found basis. Precision data will be supplied upon request. H = High result, L = Low result. Reference ranges are standard AHL reference ranges.)

E. Mariadass

Signed Bernad Mariadass
(Section Leader - Au)

Report Date: 19/04/2017 16:15

E. Mariadass **IANZ**
ACCREDITED LABORATORY

Signed Bernad Mariadass
(Section Leader - Au)

Final

Gribbles Veterinary Pathology make every effort to collect, analyse and report the results of tests accurately and promptly but accepts no responsibility for any factors which influence the results that are beyond our control. This report should not be reproduced except in full.

Test 2 - FECRT - Faecal Egg Count Reduction test results for Morabec 2017

Samples collected 14 days after drenching with Morabec. The test result showed a 100% result for the efficacy of Morabec in the treatment of the horses from this stable.



Gribbles Veterinary Pathology
37-41 Carbine Road
Mt Wellington

Ph: 09 5744701
Fax: 09 5745304

Case No: AU1715686

Report To: Robyn Bates Pharmaceuticals
Quantock
208 Roslyn Road

Animal/Herd: EQUINE
Species: Equine
Breed: Unknown

Age: UNKNOWN
Sex: Unknown

Submitted by: JANINE WALLACE
Submitter ref:
Owner:

Date Sent: 15/05/2017 12:09
Date Received: 16/05/2017 12:09
Date Tested: 16/05/2017 13:52

Phone:
Notification:
Fax Number:

Tests Requested: 9 x Faeces - Horse Faecal Egg Count

Parasitology

Animal ID	Strongyle eggs/gm	Ascarid eggs/gm	Strongyloides eggs/gm
D1	Negative	Negative	Negative
C2	Negative	Negative	Negative
P2	Negative	Negative	Negative
A1	Negative	Negative	Negative
D2	Negative	Negative	Negative
C1	Negative	Negative	Negative
D3	Negative	Negative	Negative
P1	Negative	Negative	Negative
J1	Negative	Negative	Negative

Test methodology references are available on request. Opinions and interpretations of test results expressed in this report are outside the scope of the laboratory's terms of accreditation.
(Note: Results apply only to samples received, on an as found basis. Precision data will be supplied upon request. H = High result, L = Low result. Reference ranges are standard AHL reference ranges.)


Signed

Bernad Mariadass
(Section Leader - Au)

Report Date: 16/05/2017 13:56

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ACCREDITED LABORATORY
Signed Bernad Mariadass
(Section Leader - Au)

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Please note that horse ID` T1 was not re-tested as he had re-located to another Pony Club