



# Faecal Worm Egg Counts: How to prepare a faecal sample for posting

B&W Equine Vets, Equine Hospital, Clinical Laboratory, Breadstone,  
Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9HG  
Tel: 01453 811867

## How to package up a faecal sample for posting

1. Collect the dung sample whilst it is still warm using a glove and place into a container or clean freezer bag which can be properly sealed. Collecting the sample from fresh dung is important to ensure that the result is as accurate as possible.
2. Eggs are not evenly distributed in droppings so the sample should be taken from several faecal 'balls' within one pile of droppings. The total sample size needs to be 4g - about the size of a golf ball, maybe slightly larger if the horse has been eating hay as hay weighs less than grass!
3. Collect dung separately from each animal to be tested. Do not combine dung from different animals.
4. Ensure that the container or bag is clearly labelled with your horse's name, your surname, your postcode, contact number and the date the sample was taken (you might want to do this before you put the sample in the container!).
5. Ensure that the container/bag is properly sealed. To avoid any leakage in the post, please then place the container or bag in another freezer bag and secure that tightly with sticky tape as well.
6. Place the securely sealed sample(s) in a tough, padded envelope and post it 1st Class to:

**B&W Equine Hospital  
Breadstone  
Berkeley  
Gloucestershire GL13 9HG**

Please note that the postage costs of the package will depend on its weight and size, so please do not put a regular 1st Class stamp on it as it will not get to us.

Please do not post samples to arrive over the weekend or on a bank holiday. The egg count is better done when the sample is as fresh as possible and we are unable to carry out the egg counts on a weekend/bank holiday.

If you need to store the sample before posting it, please keep it out of direct sunlight and in a cool place. Ideally, keep it in the fridge. Aim to send the sample on the same day you collect it.

Your worm egg count result will usually be ready within 24 - 48 hours of reaching the laboratory. However, it may take longer whilst Covid-19 restrictions are in place. You will be contacted by a vet with the result and advice on what you should do regards worming your horse.

Submission forms are available to download and print from our website, but are not essential provided that the sample is labelled correctly (as per point 4 above).

[https://www.bwequinevets.co.uk/uploads/Individual\\_FWEC\\_form.pdf](https://www.bwequinevets.co.uk/uploads/Individual_FWEC_form.pdf)

[https://www.bwequinevets.co.uk/uploads/Yard\\_FWEC\\_form.pdf](https://www.bwequinevets.co.uk/uploads/Yard_FWEC_form.pdf)

If you have any questions at all, please contact your local B&W clinic during opening hours, which are currently Monday – Friday 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.