

# FAECAL EGG COUNT



## WHAT IS A FAECAL EGG COUNT (FEC)?

A FEC involves **microscopically examining a small amount of faeces and counting the number of eggs seen**. We then convert this to “**eggs per gram**” and recommend deworming your horse using cut off values that are based on research and widely accepted by equine veterinarians around the world.

## WHEN DO I GET A FEC DONE?

- FEC should be performed **every 3 months as minimum** (ie. 4 times a year, change of season).
- When your horse develops clinical signs commonly associated with worms: **weight loss, lethargy, poor coat condition, pot-bellied appearance**.
- We routinely recommend FEC when attending mild colics.
- If we have performed a FEC on your horse for the first time we will often recommend a **FEC Reduction Test (FECRT)** if your result indicates deworming is necessary. This evaluates whether your dewormer has worked and therefore whether your horse has any parasite resistance to the particular product used.
- The **FECRT involves:**
  - FEC at day 0 (so when you are due to deworm again/3months)
  - Administration of dewormer as recommended.
  - FEC at day 10-14 post deworming.
- The first FEC is best done in the spring or Autumn, not in the heat of summer when there are fewer parasites.

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## HOW DO I DO A FEC? >QUICK ANSWER: WE DO IT, SO YOU DONT HAVE TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!!

1. Check to see when you last dewormed and with what product. We recommend getting a sample of manure at least 3 weeks after the previous dewormer, this will allow us to see what worms are left and reproducing.
2. Collect a table spoon amount of fresh manure (from within the last 12-24 hours) in an airtight container or a ziplock bag. The fresher the sample the better as eggs will breakdown with time and temperature.
3. Drop the sample straight to one of our 3 drop off points closest to you or keep it refrigerated until you can drop it off as this will slow hatching of the eggs (within 72 hours). Please note we do not perform FEC's over the weekend, so all drop-offs at the clinic need to be Monday – Friday during business hours.
4. Please call or text us on 0412 619 740 to let us know you are dropping off a sample and we can ensure it is collected and have the results back to you within 24 hours. Earlier drop offs are better as they allow us to get them done the same day.

## DROP OFF POINTS

- **Elite Equine Veterinarians** - 110 Kennedy Rd, Macclesfield VIC 3782
  - Monday to Friday 8:00am-5:00pm
- **Emerald Stockfeed & Pet Supplies** - 1 Emerald-Monbulk Rd, Emerald VIC 3782
  - Monday 8:30am-5:00pm
- **Wonga Park Stock Feed & Equine** - 323 Yarra Road, Wonga Park VIC 3115
  - Monday 9:30am-5:00pm
  - Tuesday 9:30am-5:00pm
  - Wednesday 9:30am-5:00pm
  - Thursday CLOSED
  - Friday 9:30am-5:00pm
  - Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
  - Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm



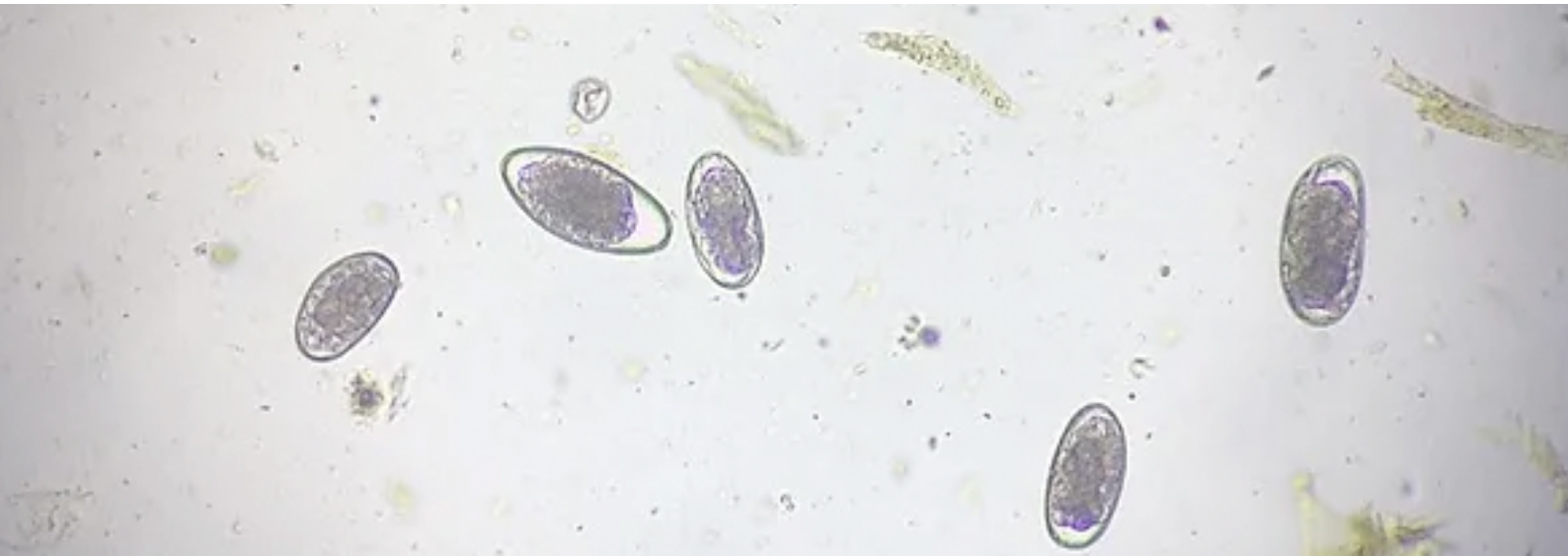
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## WHAT DO THE RESULTS MEAN?

For accuracy of results we generally perform FEC's on the same day that it is dropped off. The number of eggs counted are converted to eggs per gram (epg) of faeces which reflects the the number of adult worms that are reproducing (shedding eggs) within your horses gut (ie. their worm burden).

As recommended by the American Association of Equine Practitioners we use 200-300 eggs per gram as our cut off for whether a horse requires treatment with a dewormer. If the FEC is >200-300epg then we recommend deworming and what drug to use is based on what previous dewormer was given and how long ago it was given. If the FEC is <200-300epg and your horse in good overall condition then we recommend a repeat FEC in 3 months or sooner if clinical signs of a worm burden appear.

We aim to get the results back to you on the same day (or within 24 hours) following sample drop off and will discuss any treatment recommendations or answer any questions you may have.



## AN ADDITIONAL NOTE

\*Due to the nature of FEC's, a FEC result of 0 epg does not necessarily mean your horse has no worm burden. FEC's cannot identify ALL of the worms in your horse. They cannot detect encysted worm larvae (cyathostomes), tapeworm, pinworm or bot infestations. Please refer to our client handout for more information regarding worms, FEC Reduction Tests and strategic worming

**If you have any questions or concerns please contact us on  
0412 619 740.**