



St David's Worming Plan

What to do:

- At St David's Equine we recommend for Worm Egg Counts (WECs) to be performed to **minimise the risk of worm resistance to wormers**. This also allows for a targeted approach for the use of wormers. WECs are used to identify horses with high worm burdens, and for those horses with a WEC of more than 300epg (eggs per gram of faeces) an appropriate worming treatment may be advised.
- Those with lower WECs **do not require treatment**, preventing the unnecessary and ineffective use of wormers.
- WECs done regularly (3-4 times a year) aids in your understanding of your horse's worm burden through the seasons.
- You can purchase a WEC kit (*'Poop in the Post'*) from us at St David's Equine. Simply collect a small sample of fresh faeces, place in into the sample pot provided and place this in the addressed envelope to St David's Equine Practice, and post the same day.
- It is important that it is fresh faeces as the older the sample, the less reliable the results will be. If you are unable to post your sample the same day, place it in the fridge until posting.
- On arrival at the practice the sample will be analysed and the results will be sent to you, generally within a 48 hour period, along with recommendations for the next course of action. Please ensure you fill out the form accurately, particularly ensuring you have included your up to date contact details.
- There is no diagnostic test yet for encysted redworm, so if you suspect an infection you may need to treat accordingly. This can be discussed with one of our vets for a treatment plan. Additionally, tapeworm eggs do not show up reliably using the WEC method, so you should still treat for this parasite or get your vet to perform a blood test which will give information on tapeworm in either spring or late autumn.

Correct administration of wormers

- To get an accurate dose for your horse they will need to be weighed. This can be done using a weight tape if a weighbridge is not available. It is important when administering the wormer paste that the horse swallows the required dose **as under dosing can lead to the wormer not having full effect and therefore your horse going unprotected**.

Holding the horses head up briefly to allow them to swallow the paste down instead of spitting it out is recommended.

- If you are mixing the wormer into feed, then the use of tasty treats can be added to tempt your horse, such as using molasses. Only feed part of the usual ration and mix well, once your horse has eaten the worming treatment in their feed then the rest of their ration can be given.
- If you have concerns about parasites in your horse, please speak with a member of the veterinary team, who will be glad to assist you.

