

VET-LAB Understanding Your Worm Egg Count Results

What the numbers on your Vet-Lab result mean, and what to do next.

What is EPG?

A worm egg count reports the number of worm eggs found in each gram of dung, called eggs per gram (EPG). It shows how many eggs your horse is passing at the time of the test.

A rough guide to results

Result (EPG)	Often described as	What owners commonly do
Under about 250	Low	Keep monitoring and discuss with your vet or adviser whether treatment is needed.
About 250 to 1200	Moderate	Talk to your vet or adviser about whether to treat, and plan a retest.
Over about 1200	High	Speak to your vet about treatment, then retest 10 to 14 days afterwards.

These bands are a general guide. Thresholds vary between vets and yards, so always talk to your vet or a qualified adviser about what is right for your horse.

What a worm egg count cannot show

- It counts eggs, so it does not detect immature or encysted worms in the gut wall. A low count does not rule out a worm burden.
- It is not a reliable test for tapeworm, bots or pinworm. Talk to your vet if you are concerned about these.

Checking the wormer worked

If your horse is treated, test again 10 to 14 days later. A wormer resistance test compares the counts before and after treatment, so you can see whether the product is still working.

Why test before you worm?

Testing first lets you treat the horses that need it, rather than worming every horse on a routine. It also helps slow the spread of wormer resistance.

Need a kit? Order worm egg count, wormer resistance, lungworm, liver fluke, pinworm and faecal sand test kits at [vet-lab.co.uk/shop/equine-test-kits/](https://www.vet-lab.co.uk/shop/equine-test-kits/)