



more than
just a
worm count

TARGETED WORM CONTROL

for yards and groups of horses

Dear yard owner,

Worming can be a confusing subject but getting it right is vital to ensure the horses in your care are as happy and healthy as possible and we slow the development of drug resistance. This means the correct use of a test based programme with worming doses added as appropriate.

Our aim is to make it as easy and economical as possible for you to manage parasite control on your yard. Yards of 10 + horses can access our commercial rate which remains the same whether you're testing one sample from a new horse or the entire yard. The service is backed by veterinary approved advice from our friendly team of SQPs whenever you need it.

We hope the information in this brochure will help you to use the system on your yard and to understand just how easy it is to get started.

Looking forward to working with you,

*Gillian, David & the
Westgate team*

www.westgatelabs.co.uk

'Think twice before using wormers'*

The **British Equine Veterinary Association** advise a regular test based programme for redworm, roundworm and tapeworm, worming horses on an individual basis and only if the tests indicate.

Strategic worming doses can then be added in for encysted redworm and other parasites such as bots and pinworm as appropriate. Young or rescue horses should be treated more proactively.



Sarah Bullimore
International event rider &
targeted worming advocate



Targeted parasite control is a no brainer for me and quick and easy with the backup and advice from Westgate Labs - so important on a busy yard! Having their friendly experts just a phone call away gives me peace of mind that we have this essential aspect of our horses' care well covered to keep them in tip top condition through the season.

A TARGETED WORMING PROGRAMME

A veterinary approved programme for healthy adult horses

SPRING	Worm egg count for redworm & ascarids	Saliva test for tapeworm
SUMMER	Worm egg count for redworm & ascarids	
AUTUMN	Worm egg count for redworm & ascarids	Saliva test for tapeworm
LATE AUTUMN/ WINTER	Blood test with your vet and/or treat for possible encysted redworm, depending on risk.	

Inside this guide you will find more information on running a test based programme with multiple horses. For details on the laboratory tests and what they show please request our targeted worming leaflet.

Why move to a test based programme?

Worming programmes that rely on regular doses of wormer chemicals encourage resistance to build up to the drugs. But unchecked parasite challenges, either from testing or treating too infrequently or using the wrong drug could put horses at risk from serious illness and even death. Regular monitoring using worm counts and EquiSal saliva tests is important to protect horses from potential problems and slow resistance.

The tests

Westgate use the industry standard **'Modified McMaster' egg count method** including a centrifuge for standard worm egg counts and liver fluke tests - far superior to simple strained methods which you might find elsewhere.

The innovative **EquiSal test** is a simple to use saliva test that measures antibodies to the tapeworm parasites. Owners can take samples themselves without the need for a vet.

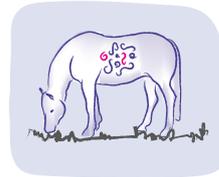
Sellotape tests for pinworm and **Sedimentation tests** for lungworm are also available.



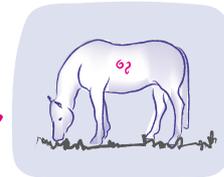
Wormer resistance and how it develops....

START

1. A horse naturally has a worm burden of non-resistant and some resistant worms



2. The horse is wormed



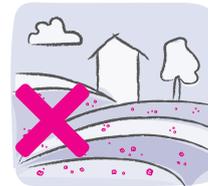
3. Drug exposure kills all but the small number of resistant worms

THE RESULT:

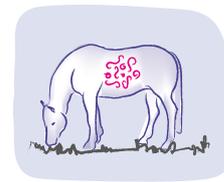
Worms never regain their sensitivity to drugs once resistance develops

If this happens with all drugs then keeping horses here in the future would be difficult hence the need to safeguard wormers.

4. Eggs from resistant worms are shed onto the pasture to continue the lifecycle



6. Worms on the horse pasture are resistant to the available wormers and do not respond to treatment

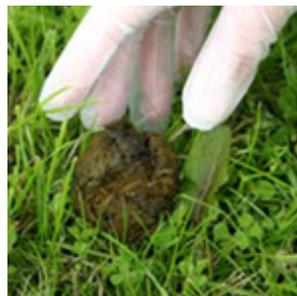


5. The population of resistant worms increases as the horse is repeatedly exposed to wormer treatment



Taking a worm count

1. Choose a day to collect samples when worming is due.
2. Fill out the control sheet with the horse's names to be tested.
3. Give out labelled pots for each horse and number them correlating to the control sheet.



4. Take all the samples on the same day, those from overnight stabling are fine. Pick up about five small pinches from different places of a fresh dung pile and press the dung into the sample container, filling it to the top to exclude air.



5. Pop in the prepaid envelope and post.
6. Samples will be tested on the day they arrive at the lab with results returned the same day.
7. Worm any horses with test results of 200 e.p.g. or more. Do not worm clear or low count horses.
8. Wait three months and test again, targeting your wormers where they are needed.

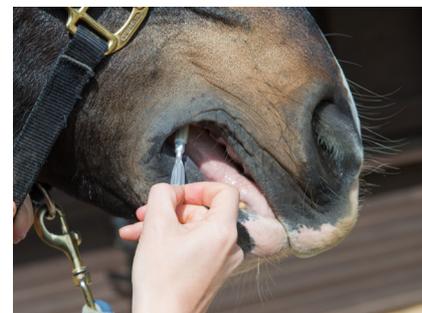
Helping your clients to accept change...

Clients should respect the policy of the yard owner and recognise that it's your responsibility to look after the welfare of the animals in your charge.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate have ruled that the yard owner has a legal right to purchase wormers for the animals in their charge, with the agreement of the horse owner, and to pass on the costs as part of the livery fee (but you cannot buy wormers and re-sell them to a third party).

Taking a saliva test

1. Collect saliva samples when worming is due, horses must not have eaten for 30 mins before sampling.
2. Fill out the barcode labels with each horse's name and stick to the test tube.
3. Pop all the samples in the prepaid envelope and return to the lab by post.
4. Samples results take about a week to come back.
5. Results will indicate which horses need treatment for tapeworm.



77% of horses tested don't need a tapewormer.

HOW TO START

Running a yard on test based parasite control: a guide to yard owners

Holding a yard meeting to explain the new system and answer any queries that might come up will help your clients to accept change.

Use our guide to explain:

- Why we need to move to targeted worm control
- Which worms will be targeted when
- What the programme looks like for the year
- How collecting the samples will work



Test for redworm and roundworm every three months – Spring, Summer and Autumn. Dose for the possibility of encysted redworm in mid-winter, sometime between December and February and after the first frost if you are also targeting bots.

Test for tapeworm every six months, treating only if results indicate.

Keep an eye out for pinworm and sellotape test horses if you suspect a problem.

Co-ordinate any treatment needed and ensure each horse is given sufficient wormer for its weight.

Reduce your reliance on chemicals



Good pasture management and animal husbandry techniques will also help to reduce the numbers of wormers required.

Keep records of each horse's counts and worming over the year.



- Keep horses with the same grazing companions for herd stability. Rest and rotate grazing and don't overcrowd fields.
- Poo-pick as much as possible, at least twice a week to keep parasite levels down. Cross graze pasture with other species eg. sheep.
- Keep new horses separate until tested and treated accordingly.
- Don't worm and move; after worming ensure horses stay on the same pasture for a few days to help slow down resistance.
- When first starting on a targeted worm control programme all horses should be tested when worming is due or slightly overdue so as to get a true result.
- Check for resistant worms; if a positive result is found, treat the horse then sample again in about 10-14 days. If the wormer has been effective the second count should be either 'no eggs seen' or very low.

BEST PRACTICE NOTES

EQUINE PARASITE CONTROL

Common worms to test or treat for in a targeted programme;

Westgate tests include all you need to take and send a sample including easy to use kit, postage paid return, full lab processing and speedy return of results.

Test routinely; Treat if required			Treat routinely
<p>SMALL & LARGE REDWORM</p>	<p>ASCARIDS</p>	<p>TAPEWORM</p>	<p>ENCYSTED SMALL REDWORM</p>
worm count x 4 a year		EquiSal test x 2 a year	1 x winter wormer
Test only if necessary; Treat if required			Treat if required
<p>LIVER FLUKE</p>	<p>LUNGWORM</p>	<p>PINWORM</p>	<p>BOTS</p>
wet grazing with sheep test December-May	grazing with donkeys test May-September	rubbing tail head sellotape test	bot eggs on hair 1 x winter wormer



CASE STUDY

Clare Cutler, Yard Manager
Oak Farm Livery Yard, Coventry

“We’d been talking to our vet about resistance and the changing advice. My main concern was whether the wormers were working and whether horses were getting drugs they didn’t need.



The thought of changing to a new system was quite daunting, we didn’t think it would be as easy as it’s been. The brilliant packaging with everything provided couldn’t make it any more straightforward. Westgate supported us all the way through. It was so quick and easy and there is always someone at the end of the phone or on email to back you up if you need it.

Now that we’re underway confidence is growing. As only a small number of horses have needed treatment it’s been cost effective too. There’s been nothing but positive feedback from liveryes. I’d 100% recommend for other yards to change to targeted worming”

What should I do now?

Start today! Friendly, FREE veterinary approved advice is available with all Westgate tests delivered by our experienced team of SQP’s. If you need any further help with your result, worming programme or worming in general please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Get informed

Visit our website, sign up to our e-news and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Ask your worming questions and join in the discussions on best practice worm control:



www.westgatelabs.co.uk

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■ your horse’s records

Log in to your online account to access full history of your horses’ test results. We also send email reminders to help keep your worm control programme on track.



“” Carolyn Cummins MVB Phd MRCVS,
consultant vet to Westgate Labs:

A Veterinary View

“Parasite control should be high on the list when it comes to routine care of your horses, along with vaccinations, dental and hoof care. It can be easy to forget as it is generally a hidden issue until it becomes a problem.

Working as a first opinion equine vet I see horses every year that are suffering from a severe worm burden. This can be due to neglect or other underlying illnesses but more worryingly, in others, these are horses with owners who believe that they are worming their horses appropriately.

Problems arise from worming at the wrong times of year, not using the appropriate wormer, under-dosing, or overuse of a particular wormer leading to resistance so that the drugs we have are no longer effective.

A horse suffering with a severe worm burden can go from an apparently healthy horse to a severely ill one in a very short space of time, hence the importance of a regular testing regime.”



■ other animals

We test all grazing animals including sheep, cattle, goats and chickens, plus some more unusual customers including llamas, an owl, tortoises and a red eye tree frog!

Composite samples of herds and flocks can be taken; we usually advise a ratio of approximately one test for every 20 animals.