

RUN BY VETS, OWNED BY VETS



EQUUS VETS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

Aprils cover photo is of Seren and her owner Kay. Seren attends Trec Training Clinics with her owner Kay. This is a picture of them venturing over one of the obstacles with both of them looking as though they are thoroughly enjoying themselves!!

As a practise we are always trying to evolve and be able to offer the best level of service to our clients.

This is why we have decided to purchase an Ovacyte Machine that electronically reads faecal samples to give a fast, efficient and accurate service so that our vets can advise the best worming management plan specific to the individual needs of your horse.

Read on to find out the process we go through with your samples using this super new piece of kit.



COMING UP IN MAY...

We are in the throws of organising a client evening:

Monday 18th May
@ The Grange Equestrian
18.30 for 19.00

More details to follow..

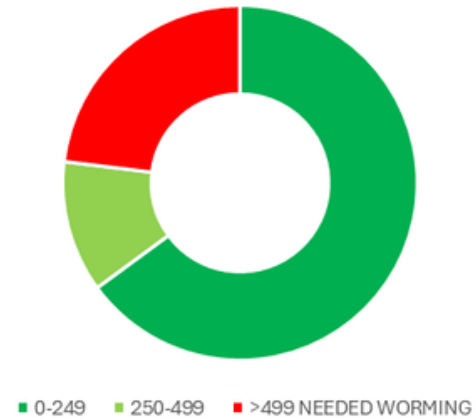


EQUINE WORMING – TEST DON'T GUESS

We are now at the start of the period known as the 'grazing season' for our horses and this runs through to early October.

During this period, it is recommended that faecal samples should be taken and tested for any parasites every 10 – 12 weeks. Based on current evidence, we should carry out the testing as some parasites have developed a resistance to the wormers used to control them. In addition, worming is not always necessary as the chart to the right shows from the samples Equus processed in 2025.

Worm egg count results in 2025

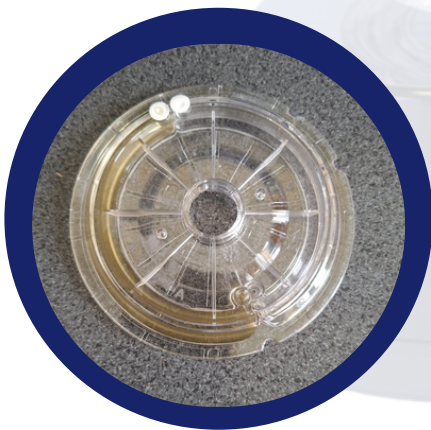


Ovacyte whose mantra is 'Test Dont Guess' is the trade mark name for a machine that uses AI to analyse faecal samples and count any parasites that might be present – a machine that we now have in our North Tawton Surgery and we use to process your horses samples.

So you post or drop in a faecal sample - what happens next:

STEP 1

3g of the faecal sample will be weighed out and then mixed with the flotation fluid which takes it to a total of 50g



STEP 2

The mixture is drained and filtered into a beaker and whilst swirling the mixture, 5mls is taken and inserted into the 'cassette'

EAST CORNWALL AREA DAYS

w/c 4th May and w/c 18th May

STEP 3

The 'cassette' is put in a horizontal position and placed on to the mount of the Ovacyte machine



STEP 4

The Ovacyte machine reads the sample and counts any parasites present. The result comes up both on the screen of the Ovacyte machine and linked to our reception computer. The picture to the left shows an example of some results. These results are then reported to you.

Parasites & Results i

Strongyles EPG:	1640
Parascaris spp. EPG:	0
Strongyloides westeri EPG:	0
Anoplocephala spp.:	0
Oxyuris equi EPG:	0

Strongyloides westeri EPG:	<DL = Below detection limit of 50 EPG (not clinically significant)
Anoplocephala spp.:	+ = 1 to 99 EPG ++ = 100 to 499 EPG +++ = 500+ EPG

BENEFITS OF THE OVACYTE MACHINE :

- Removes the need for manual testing thus reducing the risk of human error
- With removing the risk of human error, results will be consistent and accurate
- The parasite burden will be identified exactly to ensure there is no unnecessary deworming and reducing the ever-increasing resistance to wormers.

WORMING PACKAGES AND HEALTH PLANS:

We offer both standalone worming packages and worming packages within our health plans.

The standalone worming packages include 4 x worm egg count sample bags, 4 x submission forms and 1 Equisal test kit (this is a saliva-based kit that tests for tapeworm). Samples can be dropped into either North Tawton, Hatherleigh or Okehampton for processing or alternatively we offer a postal package that includes 4 x SAE that are used to send the samples back to North Tawton.

If you would like to find out more information about our worming packages, health plans or one-off sample testing, please do not hesitate to contact our reception team on 01837 214 004 or alternatively email us - info@equusvets.co.uk.