

Horse Care Info Sheet

How to Collect Manure for a Fecal Egg Count (FEC)

Performing regular fecal egg count testing is an important step in equine parasite management. Collecting a manure sample is easy, but it must be done properly to ensure accurate test results. Be sure to request feces are examined for a strongyle egg count in horses aged 2 years and up. Here's how:

1. Write the date and horse's name on a zip-lock bag.
2. Take another zip-lock bag and turn it inside-out over your hand.
3. With your hand inside the bag, pick up a fresh fecal mass.
4. Use your other hand to pull the zip-lock bag over your hand, turning the bag right side out. Squeeze out as much air as possible. The feces are now in the bag.
5. Zip up the bag. Place the bag into the labelled bag.
6. Store in a cool place, such as a fridge.
7. Deliver your fecal sample to the vet within **48 hours!**

WARNING! Do not place the sample in the freezer or leave it in your car. Extreme cold or heat can kill parasites, defeating the purpose of collecting a sample.



To learn more about managing parasites, read Equine Guelph's article on [parasite control](#) and enroll in Equine Guelph's [Equine Health & Disease Prevention](#) course.