



## Introduction

The Zero Egg Count Equine Parasite Test Kit is used to perform a test that detects the type and number of parasite or worm eggs a horse passes in each gram of its manure. These tests are sometimes called fecal egg count tests. Everything needed to accomplish this task is included in the kit, except for the horse's manure. All the customer merely provides their contact information, collects a fecal sample from their horse, and sends everything into Zero Egg Count's laboratory.

When the sample arrives at Zero Egg Count's laboratory, a technician analyzes the sample and the results are sent back to the customer on the same day. The results show the type and number of parasites or worms in Eggs Per Gram. Eggs Per Gram (EPG) is an industry-standard for fecal egg counts so a customer can compare their current results to previous testing results. The higher the EPG count, the higher the number of parasite eggs a horse is shedding into its environment.. The parasite EPG calculation is often referred to as a horse's parasite load or worm burden.

According to the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), fecal egg counts are an integral part of a horse's parasite control program and testing should be conducted at least twice per year. The test establishes a parasite burden baseline that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of a horse's deworming program.

Following are some frequently asked questions about the kit and equine fecal testing in general:

### **Q. Why test your horse for worms/parasites?**

All horses are infected by one or more parasites. Left untreated parasites can wreak havoc on a horse's internal organs, leading to an ulcerated digestive system, recurrent colic, irritated or damaged lungs, and blood vessel damage caused by developing worms.

### **Q. What is a Zero Egg Count's Equine Fecal Test Kit?**

Zero Egg Count Equine Fecal Test Kits sometimes called fecal egg count test kits, are used to detect the type and number of parasites that are detected in a horse's manure sample.

### **Q. Are the kits safe for my horse?**

Zero Egg Count Parasite Test Kits are safe and can be used on all horses, regardless of age or breed. The kits are used by veterinarians, trainers, barn and horse owners across the United States.

### **Q. What types of parasites does the kit detect?**

Zero Egg Count's laboratory technicians identify and count all parasite eggs that are present in a horse's fecal sample including large and small strongyles, ascarids/roundworms, threadworms, and pinworms. The findings are represented on the test results by the total number of parasite eggs detected in eggs per gram (EPG). Tapeworms and coccidia eggs if detected in the sample, are not included in the Total Count but instead are listed simply as present or not

### **Q. How difficult is the kit to use?**

Using the Zero Egg Count Equine Fecal Test Kit is easy; you just follow three simple steps:

1. **SCOOP** - Collect a fecal sample from your horse using the collection bag that comes with the kit.
2. **SEAL** - Place the sample into the pre-addressed, prepaid return packaging.
3. **SEND** - Drop off the return packaging at any US Post Office and receive fast, accurate results.



**Q. What's included in the kit?**

Each kit contains all the materials you need to test a single horse:

- 1 - Transparent, Leakproof, Resealable Collection Bag
- 1 - Reusable, Food-safe, Refrigerant Coolant Pack.
- 1 - Insulated Pre-addressed Thermal Shielded Prepaid Shipping Envelope.
- 1 - Equine Parasite Collection and Treatment Form.
- 1 - Detailed, Easy to Follow Sample Collection and Shipping Instructions Sheet.

**Q. How long does it take to get my test result back?**

Testing is accomplished in 24 hours after the kit is received by the lab and results are typically sent the same day.

**Q. What type of test does the lab perform?**

Zero Egg Count's *True Count Test* counts every parasite egg detected using a Modified Wisconsin Sugar Flotation Method on all fecal samples. Fecal egg count tests are performed daily using this technique. This method has a detection limit of 1 egg per gram (EPG).

**Q. Who performs the test?**

Zero Egg Count's laboratory has been serving horse owners and the veterinary community throughout the United States since 1984. The lab is staffed with professional laboratory technicians trained in equine parasitology and supervised by an on-site parasitologist with 35 years of experience.

**Q. How much fecal matter do I need to collect?**

Fecal samples collected should be about the size of a large hen's egg; the fresher the fecal the better.

**Q. Can I mix different horse fecal samples together?**

No. Each horse's parasite load or worm burden is unique. If you are sending more than one sample, use a different fecal collection bag for each sample sent in to the lab.

**Q. Does my horse's fecal sample need any special preparation?**

No special preparation is necessary. Just use the provided packaging to collect a horse's fecal sample and ship to the lab as soon as possible. The fresher the sample the better.

**Q. How soon after collecting my horse's fecal sample should I send it to the lab for testing?**

Try to ship the sample on the same day you collect it. Continued exposure to oxygen and heat will cause the sample's eggs to hatch or degrade which will affect the test results.

**Q. Can I refrigerate the sample?**

Yes, you can temporarily refrigerate a horse's fecal sample but do not freeze it. However, you should ship the sample as soon as possible.

**Q. Are there any additional fees associated with the kit?**

No. All customer laboratory services, and shipping fees are included in the price of the kit.