



SOP 10.04 Ruminant and equine faecal egg sampling

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Purpose

- (1) The objective of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance to the Charles Sturt University staff on:
 - a. Methods to obtain faecal samples for monitoring of gastrointestinal worm burdens. Nematodes (roundworms) are important parasites of both equine and ruminant species with heavy parasite burdens having a negative impact on both animal health and financial returns from production animals. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the quantitation of nematode eggs in ruminant and equine faeces for treatment-decision making, surveillance purposes and detection of anthelmintic resistance.

Scope

- (2) This procedure applies to any person who is involved in AEC approved projects involving sheep, goats or horses.
- (3) All researchers and teaching staff using animals for scientific purposes must be competent. For definition of competency refer to Charles Sturt University's Policy on 'Animal Care Competency Training and Assessment'

Details of procedure

Collection of faeces:

- (4) Approximately 10 pellets of faeces per sheep or goat, and similar quantity for larger ruminants and horses. A test requires 10 separate samples, which should be placed in a sealed sample jar and be refrigerated. Gloves should be worn when handling faeces. Fresh faeces may be collected from the ground where animals have recently stood, ensuring the sample is not contaminated with soil or vegetation. Faeces may also be collected from individual animals per rectum. Ensure the animal is suitably restrained in a standing position for operator safety. Gently insert a finger into rectum and pull-out faecal pellets. Use lubrication on the glove if insufficient moisture. It will be evident after one or two probings if there is enough for a sample. If not, try again in a few minutes, then return animals to the paddock.

Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents

- (5) None.



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Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals

- (6) Low impact. Faecal grab sampling can cause bleeding if not performed with lubricated gloves or if repeated several times on one sheep.

Animal care

- (7) No special requirements.

Pain relief

- (8) Not required.

Reuse and repeated use

- (9) Sampling from rectum once per day.

Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure

- (10) Faecal sampling: Competence in handling the specific species. Observation and understanding of the procedure.

Record requirements

- (11) N/A

Associated documentation (including pictures if available)

- (12) N/A

Glossary

- (13) N/A

References and relevant links

- (14) N/A