

UTCVM PARASITOLOGY LABORATORY

# Fecal Testing

Give us #THEWHOLEPILE. There's no such thing as too much poop.



TEST NAME	COMPONENTS	PROS	CONS
<b>Routine Fecal Panel (Sugar and Zinc)</b> <i>FOR SMALL ANIMALS</i> *Gold Standard for parasite screening	Centrifugal* Sucrose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased sensitivity for Roundworm &amp; Tapeworm eggs, <i>Cryptosporidium</i> &amp; Coccidian oocysts</li> </ul>	Specific gravity of solution (1.275) distorts <i>Giardia</i> cysts & Fluke eggs
	Centrifugal* Zinc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased sensitivity for <i>Giardia</i> cysts, Fluke eggs &amp; lungworm larvae</li> </ul>	Poor sensitivity for whipworm eggs and <i>Cryptosporidium</i> oocysts
<b>Giardia Panel &amp; Sugar Float</b> <i>FOR SMALL ANIMALS</i>	Giardia ELISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Giardia</i> ANTIGEN in symptomatic cats &amp; dogs</li> <li>Increased sensitivity when paired with zinc centrifugal float</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased false positives in asymptomatic dogs</li> <li>Increased false negatives for some <i>Giardia</i> genotypes</li> </ul>
	Centrifugal* Zinc & Sucrose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most comprehensive fecal exam for parasite screening</li> <li>Optimized for <i>Giardia</i> cysts, <i>Cryptosporidium</i> &amp; Coccidian oocysts</li> </ul>	Specific gravity of solution (1.275 vs. 1.19) require both sugar & zinc for comprehensive detection
<b>Lungworm Panel</b> <i>FOR SMALL ANIMALS</i>	Centrifugal* Sucrose, Centrifugal Zinc and Baermann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most comprehensive fecal exams for parasite screening</li> <li>Increased sensitivity for fluke eggs &amp; lungworm larvae</li> </ul>	Specific gravity of solution (1.275 vs. 1.19) require both sugar & zinc for comprehensive detection
<b>Fecal Float/Egg Count Panel</b> <i>FOR LARGE ANIMALS</i>	McMaster Chamber for Strongylate eggs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess environmental contamination</li> <li>Evaluate deworming efficacy</li> <li>Identify high and low egg shedders</li> <li>Establish deworming strategies using pre- and post-counts</li> <li>Provide a basis for eliminating animals contributing to excess pasture contamination</li> </ul>	*** Does NOT indicate worm burden ***  Does not provide a comprehensive fecal exam; low sensitivity for <i>Anoplocephala</i> , <i>Oxyuris</i> , and <i>Parascaris</i> eggs.
	Centrifugal* Sucrose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most comprehensive fecal exams for large animals</li> </ul>	Specific gravity of solution (1.275) distorts Fluke eggs and lungworm larvae
<b>Lungworm Panel</b> <i>FOR LARGE ANIMALS</i>	Centrifugal* Zinc and Baermann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased sensitivity for lungworm larvae</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor sensitivity for general parasite screening</li> <li>Baermann requires overnight incubation, increases turnaround times</li> </ul>

\*Parasite detection significantly increases with centrifugation

Comprehensive review by Companion Animal Parasite Council [capcvet.org](http://capcvet.org)