

Vital Statistics/Adult Horse TPR+

T	Rectal Temperature: 99-101 degrees F
P	Pulse/Heart Rate: 28-44 beats per minute
R	Respiratory Rate: 8-16 Breaths per minute
CRT	Capillary Refill Time: 1-2 seconds
GI	Gut Sounds: 1-3 gurgling sounds per minute

Call a Veterinarian if any concerns/abnormalities

Colic:

- *Pawing
- *Rolling
- *Looking at sides
- *Decreased appetite or manure production

Eyes:

- *Cloudy
- *Swelling of lids
- *Redness
- *Tearing
- *Squinting

Choke:

- *Saliva +/- food from nostrils or mouth
- *Coughing/Gagging
- *Refusing Food
- *Colic type symptoms

Neurological:

- *Ataxic/appears drunk
- *repeated circling
- *Leaning on walls/fences
- *Dribbling urine

Swelling:

- *Mouth, tongue, muzzle or head
- *Associated with fever or lameness

Overheating:

- *Not sweating appropriately
- *Rapid breathing
- *Elevated temperature

Fever:

- *Temperature 101.5 F

Wounds:

- *Gapping skin
- *Deep wounds
- *Near a joint
- *Associated with fever/lameness
- *Continued bleeding



Office (703) 754-3309

After Hours Emergency (866) 503-7411

See other side for more information

How to evaluate your horse's vital signs:

Temperature:

Normal: 99-101 F

To check: The best way to check at horse's temperature is rectally with a digital thermometer.

*Clean the thermometer after use

*Exercise, stress or infection can raise temperature

*Environment can cause and increase or decrease in body temperature

Pulse:

Normal: 28-44 beats per minute

To check: Take the pulse just under the curve of the jaw, the back of the ankle (pastern/fetlock) or under the base of the tail.

Alternatively using a stethoscope listen on the left side of the rib cage just behind the elbow (make sure to not double count-each lub/dub is one heartbeat)

*Exercise, stress and pain may all alter the pulse/heart rate

Respiratory:

Normal: 8-16 breaths per minute

To check: Count the flank movement associated with breathing or count breaths by nostril movement or place a hand near the nostril.

*Respiratory noise is abnormal

*Flared nostrils or obvious abdominal effort is abnormal

*Age, stress, fever, pain and external temperature/humidity can all alter Respiratory rate

Gut Sounds:

Normal: 1-3 Gurgling noises/minute

To check: Carefully press your ear to your horse's barrel, just behind the rib cage, and listen. Listen to both sides.

*Increased or decreased sounds can be abnormal.

Capillary Refill Time (CRT):

Normal: 1-2 seconds with light pink gums

To Check: Lift your horse's lip, firmly press your finger to the gum for 1-2 seconds, lift your finger and count how many seconds until the color returns.

*Abnormal gum color (yellow, bluish or purple, or a darker line adjacent to the teeth can be a sign of a serious problem).

Hay Intake per day: 15-20 pounds of hay per 1000 pound horse (1.5-2% of bodyweight)

*Some horses need more or less depending on their metabolic status, age, amount of exercise and type/amount of other feed.

Water Intake per day: 10 gallons per 1000 pound horse per day

*Changes with environmental conditions and exercise

Manure Output per day: 4-13 piles (28-44 pounds) per 1000 pound horse per day

*Changes with environmental conditions and type/amount and quality of feed

Urine Output per day: 2-4 gallons per 1000 pound horse per day

*Changes with environmental conditions, water intake and exercise



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