



Equine Emergency Information

Vital Statistics:

Temperature:

Heart Rate (tends to be higher in foals):

Respiratory Rate:

Mucous Membranes:

Capillary Refill Time:

State of Hydration:

Normal Range:

99-101.5 Degrees Fahrenheit

36-48 bpm (beats per minute)

8-12 bpm (breaths per minute)

Pink and Moist

1-2 seconds

Pinch test should be under two seconds

Some Common Emergencies:

Colic: Abdominal discomfort of varied causes and severity. **Do not medicate horse until the veterinarian has been called**, as pain medication can mask signs that veterinarian may need to monitor.

- Take pulse.
- 40 - 60 BPM, *alert veterinarian to situation*. **Arrange to transport your horse**. Don't wait until the last minute. The best way to assure a successful outcome is to seek early treatment.
- 60 to 80 BPM, *veterinary attention is necessary*.
- **80 BPM plus, IMMEDIATE veterinary attention** is needed.

Choke: Call a vet to assess situation. Take food and water away and follow professional directions.

Lacerations (wounds/cuts): Immediate attention, keep the wound clean; apply direct pressure until the bleeding stops and then apply a pressure bandage. The sooner the wound is dealt with professionally, the greater the chance of a favorable outcome. Do not apply salves or ointments unless recommended by your veterinarian as this could impede suturing and healing of the wound.

Eye wounds: Do not use any eye medication unless specifically directed by a veterinarian. Eyes are extremely vulnerable and any injury should be treated as serious. If you suspect an eye injury, notice unusual watering, swelling or a mucous discharge from the eye, call a veterinarian.

