



*Excellence in Equine Care*  
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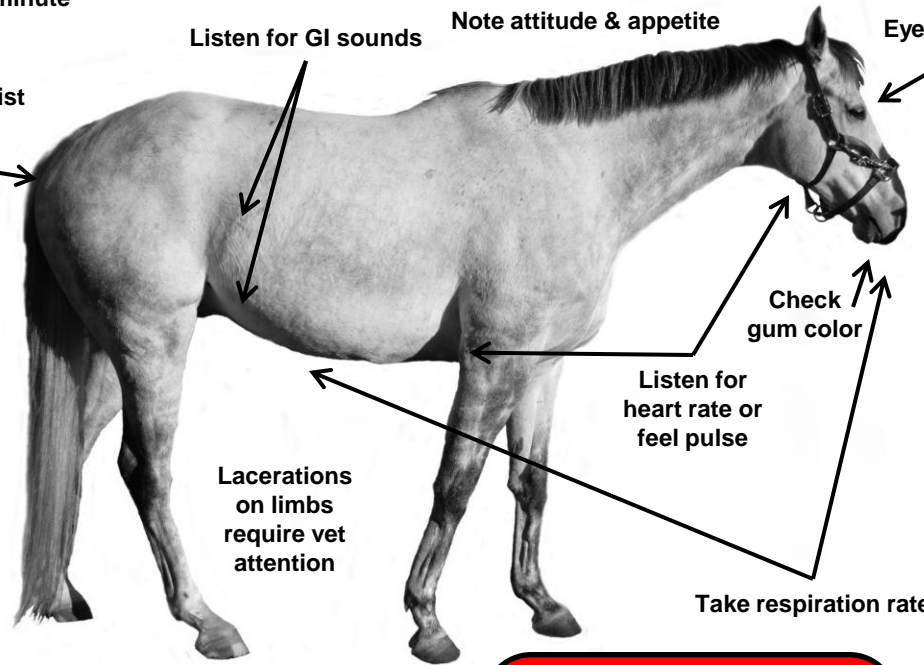
## Normal Vital Signs

Heart Rate	24-44 beats per minute
Respiratory Rate	8-16 breaths per minute
Temperature	98.5-101 F
Gum Color	Pale pink and moist

# EMERGENCY HORSE CARE

1. Before approaching any sick or injured horse, remember – *your safety comes first*. Always have an escape route and two people (one to hold the horse). Even a calm horse, when sick or injured, may behave in an unexpected manner.
2. Next, assess the horse; take note of vital signs, appetite, attitude, and when the horse was last “normal.”
3. All of the problems listed on this sheet are emergencies. Please call our office if you notice any of these signs.

## CALL (402) 533-1151



### Colic

**Signs:** Not interested in feed, pawing, rolling, looking at abdomen, kicking at abdomen, stretching out, curling upper lip  
**What to do:** Remove any feed and hand walk

Take temperature →

### Allergic Reactions

**Signs:** Hives, facial swelling, respiratory noise or distress  
**What to do:** Try to keep horse quiet

### Nail in Hoof

**What to do:** Do NOT remove nail unless instructed by vet; keep horse confined

Listen for GI sounds

Note attitude & appetite

Eye injuries require vet attention

Lacerations on limbs require vet attention

Check gum color

Listen for heart rate or feel pulse

Take respiration rate

### Eye Injuries

**Signs:** Squinting, tearing, eye lid swelling, blue appearance, lacerations, discharge  
**What to do:** Keep horse in barn or stall out of bright light

### Choke

**Signs:** Feed material and saliva discharge from nostrils, coughing, retching, extending the neck  
**What to do:** Take away any remaining feed and try to keep horse quiet

### Fever

**Signs:** Temp >101.5 F, usually accompanied by lethargy, poor appetite, increased respiratory rate  
**What to do:** If fever very high (>103 F) cold hose or alcohol bath

### Lacerations

**Signs:** Wounds associated with lameness or over a joint may affect important structures  
**What to do:** Bandage to keep clean, apply pressure bandage if bleeding Do not apply any medicine

### Severe Lameness

**Signs:** Will not put weight on limb, reluctant to move, and sometimes limb swelling  
**What to do:** Bandage if limb swollen, keep horse confined, do not give any medications unless instructed by vet