



Excellence in Equine Care

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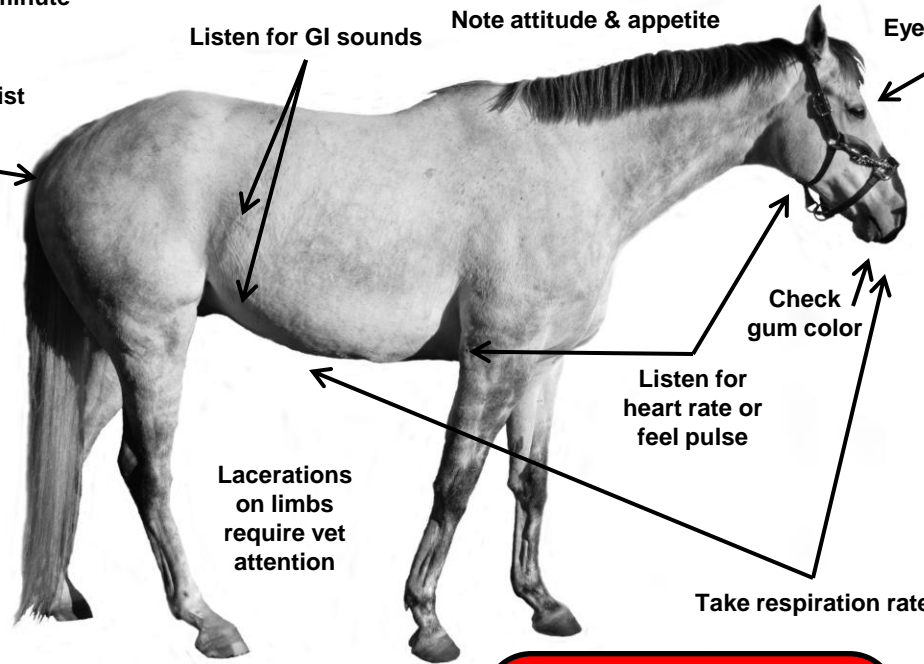
EMERGENCY HORSE CARE

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.

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

CALL (402) 533-1151



Take temperature →

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

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

Check gum color

Listen for heart rate or feel pulse

Take respiration rate

Lacerations on limbs require vet attention

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