

FOR HORSES- WHEN TO CALL THE VET

Observation:	Normal:	Call the vet when...
TEMPERATURE	99 - 101 degrees F	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* higher than 102.5 F or* lower than 98 F* cold and/or patchy sweat
PULSE	30 - 48 beats/minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* higher than 60 in a resting horse* weak or irregular rhythm
RESPIRATION	8 - 16 breaths/minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* labored breathing; unusual flare of nostrils* short, grunting, shallow breaths in a resting horse* loud breathing noises
INTESTINAL SOUNDS	a variety of gurgles, squeaks, and bubbling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* no gut sounds
CAPILLARY REFILL	1 - 2 seconds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* greater than 3 seconds* dark red, brown, yellow, or blue gums
HYDRATION	skin fold remains elevated for less than 2 seconds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* skin remains elevated for more than 6 seconds
POSTURE	standing squarely on four legs or resting alternating legs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* "sawhorse" stance or extending forefeet* not using one leg
ATTITUDE	relaxed but alert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* depressed; eyes too bright or dull; drooping ears; lips retracted* grinding teeth
MOBILITY	coordinated and sure-footed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* unwilling to move; falling; unable to rise* staggering, uncoordinated