

# FOR HORSES- WHEN TO CALL THE VET

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