

PRE VET-CHECK

Ask yourself the following questions to help describe your horse's current state to your veterinarian.

TIP: Do a dry run on all your horses to establish a 'normal.' Keep the results near your tack room for future reference.

Check the vitals - twice

HEART RATE/ PULSE: _____

(normal: 20-40 bpm)

(yearlings: 60bpm)

(foals less than 2 mo. old: 100bpm)

How? A stethoscope works best behind their elbow or feel about 1 1/2 inches behind the horse's eye.

RESPIRATORY RATE: _____

(normal: 10-20 breaths per minute)

How? Two different ways: watch the horse's nostrils or the horse's torso for movement in the ribcage/belly.

Question? Is it accompanied by extra effort or coughing.

TEMPERATURE: _____

(normal: 99°-100.5°)

(foals: 99° - 101.5°)

How? Use a normal clinical thermometer and insert into horse's rectum, **hold** for one minute.

MUCOUS MEMBRANES: _____

(normal: moist, pink)

(abnormal: super pale, brick red, purple, or lines)

How? Press on the gums for 1-2 seconds to see how fast it returns to color.

Remember: This is not intended to replace a veterinarian exam. This is only to be used as a tool to assist.

Check the following

SKIN ELASTICITY: _____

(normal: hydrated, skins snaps back quickly)

(abnormal: dehydrated, skin stays pinched after releasing or returns slowly to its regular state)

How? Pinch the skin in front of the wither on neck and see how quick it snaps back. (Older horses you may have to pinch an upper eye lid.)

GUT SOUNDS: _____

(normal: gurgling)

(abnormal: silent)

How? Place an ear on each side of the horse's belly for at least a minute.

WATCH FOR SWALLOWING: _____

How? Offer them a small treat or stick your finger in their mouth to make them chew. Then watch to see if it rolls down the front of their neck.

EXAMINE MANURE: _____

(normal: not too wet, and not too dry)

Remember. This is not intended to replace a veterinarian exam. This is only to be used as a tool to assist.