



The Best Medicine in the Field

WHAT HORSE OWNERS SHOULD KNOW IN CASE OF ILLNESS, INJURY OR EMERGENCY

The veterinarians and staff of Fox Valley Equine Practice are dedicated to providing the best possible care for your horse. The following check-list can be used to observe your horse's health statistics under normal circumstances, and that you can use to provide accurate, concise and useful information in case of an emergency. We appreciate your loyalty to our veterinary practice and hope this information will be useful to you.

Describe horse's attitude—uncomfortable, depressed, lethargic, anxious, agitated, etc.

Describe horse's posture and movement—unusual stance, frequently shifting weight, reluctance to move, kicking or biting at flanks, pacing, laying down/rolling frequently, weakness, difficulty rising, incoordination, acting "drunk", sensitivity to light, head-tossing, etc.

Take temperature. Normal resting temperature: Horses 98 to 101 degrees F
Foals 99 to 102 degrees F

Take heart rate. Normal resting heart rate: Horses 28 to 45 Beats per Minute
Foals 60 to 100 BPM

Take respiratory rate. Normal respiratory rate: Horses 8 to 20 Breaths per Minute
Foals 30 to 40 BPM

Assess horse's appetite and water consumption.

Describe horse's manure output—amount, consistency, color, odor, frequency; diarrhea or straining to defecate; approximate time of last bowel movement.

Describe horse's urine output—amount (wet areas in stall), color, odor, frequency.

Listen and describe gut motility on both sides of the horse's body.

Examine and describe mucous membranes—normal pink/moist gums vs. gray/blue/red or dry gums. Measure capillary refill time—normal is less than 2 seconds.

Report unusual/excessive sweating; non-sweating during hot/humid weather; shivering, etc.

Locate digital pulses; assess heat in legs and hooves; grade lameness—mild, moderate, severe (non weight-bearing).

Observe and describe unusual discharge from eyes or nostrils; bleeding, pain, heat, swelling or discharge from wounds; unusual discharge from vulva, sheath or rectum.

NOTE: *If you have questions about how to gather the information outlined above, please feel free to call our office. If you need a demonstration of how to gather the information, please ask our vets during your next scheduled appointment.*