

Equine Vital Signs ~ Quick Reference

Temperature- A horse's normal body temperature is **99 - 101 F**.

Pulse- The normal pulse rate, most often taken by listening to the heart on the left side of the chest just behind the left elbow, is **30 to 42 beats per minute**. Be sure to count each lub-dub as 1 beat.

Young stock and ponies tend to be a bit faster.

Respiration-The normal rate for horses is between **8-12 breaths per minute**.

Capillary refill time - (time it takes for color to return to gum tissue adjacent to teeth after pressing and releasing with your thumb): **1-2 seconds**. Color of the mucous membranes of gums, nostrils, conjunctiva (inner eye tissue), and inner lips of vulva should be pink. Bright red, pale pink to white, or bluish-purple coloring may indicate problems.

My Horse's Vital Signs

Name: _____

Resting pulse rate _____ beats per minute	after work _____
Normal temp _____	after work _____
Resting respiratory rate _____ breaths per minute	after work _____



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