

Equine Vital Signs ~ Quick Reference

Check your horse's vital signs at rest to assess overall health.

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

Heart Rate- The normal heart rate, most often taken by listening to the heart on the left side of the chest just behind the left elbow, is **28 to 44 beats per minute**.

Respiration-The normal range for horses is between **10-18 breaths per minute**. Count number of breaths taken in a 30-second period. Multiply by two to determine the breaths per minute.

Capillary refill time – The time it takes for color to return to gum tissue adjacent to teeth after pressing and releasing with your thumb. **Blood should return within 1-3 seconds**.

Gum Color – A quick indicator of whether blood is being effectively pumped through the horse's body. **Gums should be pale pink**.

My Horse's Vital Signs

Horse's Name	Normal Temperature	Resting Heart Rate (beats per minute)	Resting Respiratory Rate (breaths per minute)