



Excellence in Equine Care

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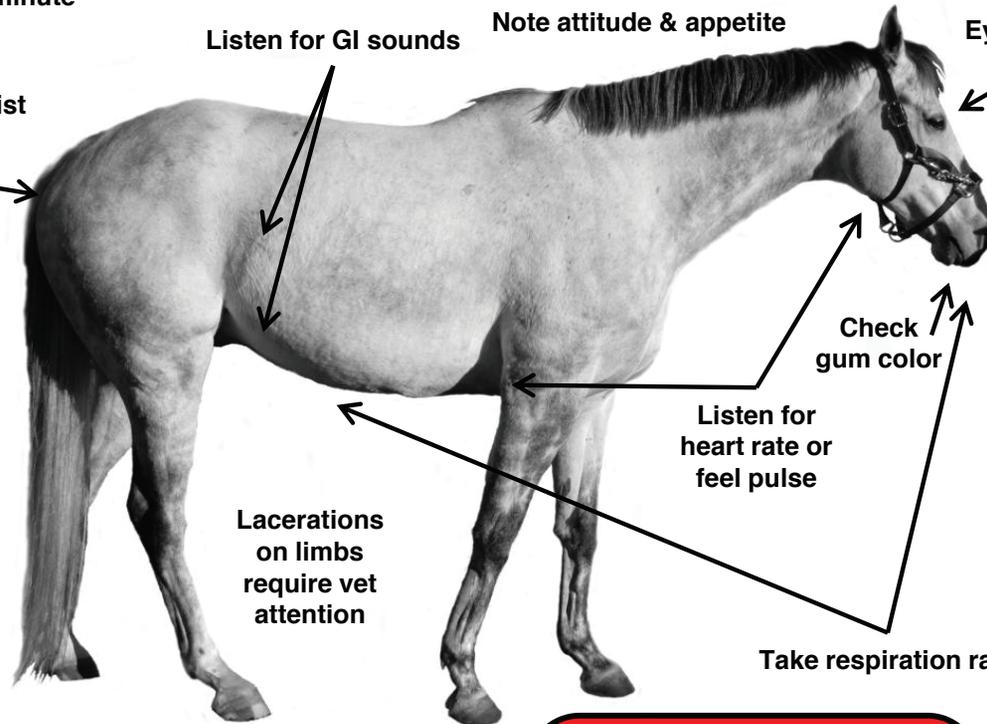
EMERGENCY HORSE CARE

1. Before approaching any sick or injured horse, remember – *your safety comes first*. Always have an escape route and two people (one to hold the horse). Even a calm horse, when sick or injured, may behave in an unexpected manner.
2. Next, assess the horse; take note of vital signs, appetite, attitude, and when the horse was last “normal.”
3. **All of the problems listed on this sheet are emergencies. Please call our office if you notice any of these signs.**

Normal Vital Signs

Heart Rate	24-44 beats per minute
Respiratory Rate	8-16 breaths per minute
Temperature	98.5-101 F
Gum Color	Pale pink and moist

CALL (402) 533-1151



Colic

Signs: Not interested in feed, pawing, rolling, looking at abdomen, kicking at abdomen, stretching out, curling upper lip

What to do: Remove any feed and hand walk

Allergic Reactions

Signs: Hives, facial swelling, respiratory noise or distress

What to do: Try to keep horse quiet

Nail in Hoof

What to do: Do NOT remove nail unless instructed by vet; keep horse confined

Listen for GI sounds

Note attitude & appetite

Eye injuries require vet attention

Take temperature

Check gum color

Listen for heart rate or feel pulse

Lacerations on limbs require vet attention

Take respiration rate

Eye Injuries

Signs: Squinting, tearing, eye lid swelling, blue appearance, lacerations, discharge

What to do: Keep horse in barn or stall out of bright light

Choke

Signs: Feed material and saliva discharge from nostrils, coughing, retching, extending the neck

What to do: Take away any remaining feed and try to keep horse quiet

Fever

Signs: Temp >101.5 F, usually accompanied by lethargy, poor appetite, increased respiratory rate

What to do: If fever very high (>103 F) cold hose or alcohol bath

Lacerations

Signs: Wounds associated with lameness or over a joint may affect important structures

What to do: Bandage to keep clean, apply pressure bandage if bleeding Do not apply any medicine

Severe Lameness

Signs: Will not put weight on limb, reluctant to move, and sometimes limb swelling

What to do: Bandage if limb swollen, keep horse confined, do not give any medications unless instructed by vet