

Brodhead Veterinary Medical Center

Normal Vital Signs of the Adult Horse

Temperature - 100.5°F

Pulse - 36-40 beats per minute

Respiration - 12-16 breaths per minute

Capillary Refill Time - less than 2 seconds

Mucous Membranes - pale pink

We recommend that the horse owner become familiar with the normal parameters of their horse and learn how to properly check vital signs. Ask your veterinarian to show you how to properly take your horse's temperature, pulse and respiration, and check capillary refill time and mucous membranes. In the event of an illness or emergency, this information will enable you to give your veterinarian a more complete medical history and profile. After learning the protocol, practice taking your horse's vital statistics regularly so that you will be fully prepared and comfortable taking vitals in an emergency situation.