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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE • FIRE 911	POISON CONTROL 1-800-222-1222
EMERGENCY CONTACT	
FARRIER	
FEED MILL	
TRANSPORTATION	

EQUINE EMERGENCIES

NORMAL ADULT VALUES

Temperature 99.0 – 101.0°F
 Heart Rate (Pulse) 32-44 beats per minute
 Respiratory Rate 12-20 breaths per minute
 Mucous Membranes pink with capillary refill <2 sec

NORMAL FOAL VALUES (depending on age)

Temperature 99.0 – 102.0°F
 Heart Rate (Pulse) 70-100 beats per minute
 Respiratory Rate 20-40 breaths per minute
 Mucous Membranes pink with capillary refill <2 sec

WHAT TO DO

- IN ANY EMERGENCY CALL A VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY.
- NEVER GIVE MEDICATIONS UNLESS INSTRUCTED BY YOUR VETERINARIAN!
- KEEP HORSE CALM, YOUR OWN CALM BEHAVIOR CAN HELP ACHIEVE THIS.

COLIC

- Call the veterinarian immediately if the horse is thrashing, is extremely painful, or has cold extremities or dark pink mucous membranes. Time is critical!
- Move the horse to an open area if it is possible to do so without injury.
- Try to keep the horse up and walking until the veterinarian arrives.
- Do not offer any food; small amounts of cool water are okay.
- Do not administer any pain medications unless instructed by the veterinarian.
- Know the horse's history of colic, normal diet and any changes, water intake, manure output and consistency, recent deworming or other medications.

LAMENESS

- Call the veterinarian immediately if the horse is not bearing full-weight on a limb.
- Check for heat, pain, or swelling in the leg and foot and compare to the other legs.
- If you suspect a fracture, do not move the horse until a veterinarian arrives.

EYE INJURIES

- Call the veterinarian immediately for any eye trauma.
- If the horse is attempting to rub the eye, it may be necessary to cross tie him or stay with him to prevent further damage.
- Do not remove any foreign objects from the eye.
- Sterile saline may be used to flush the eye, but do not use any eye drops or ointments unless instructed by the veterinarian.

LACERATIONS/WOUNDS

- Do not remove any objects, such as a nail, fence post or other objects until the veterinarian arrives. If it is removed, save the object and mark the exact location.
- Apply pressure to the wound with a clean towel or bandage to stop bleeding.
- Do not use any soaps, detergents, ointments, or powders on the wound unless instructed by the veterinarian.
- Contact your veterinarian if the wound penetrates any deeper than the skin, there is excessive bleeding, the wound is near a joint, the wound is a puncture, or there is severe contamination.

MEDICATIONS

- In an emergency, you may be instructed by a veterinarian to give oral medications or an intramuscular (IM) injection.
- Intramuscular injections usually work within 15-20 minutes while oral medications may take up to an hour. Do not give oral medications to a down or sedated horse.
- If you do not know how to give an IM injection, your veterinarian can show you how to give these.
- Intramuscular injections are given in the neck or rump-see highlighted areas on the images below.
- Insert the needle perpendicular into the muscle. Attach the syringe and pull back on the plunger to check for blood. If you see blood, redirect the needle and pull back on the plunger again. Inject the full amount of medication into the muscle.



