

## KNOW YOUR HORSE

### *What Every Horse Owner Should Know*

|                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Normal Body Temperature</b>    | 99 – 101 F  | If you don't know how to take your horse's temperature, have your Vet show you how. Always keep your thermometer handy. |
| <b>Normal Pulse</b>               | 30 – 40 beats per minute for an adult                       | If you're not sure, have your Vet show you how.   |
| <b>Normal Respiratory rate</b>    | 6 – 14 breaths per minute for an adult                      | Often this is irregular and hard to count. A sustained rate of 20 or so at rest would be normal.                        |
| <b>Normal Intestinal Activity</b> | You can hear normal intestinal sounds without a stethoscope | Listen to your horse regularly with your bare ear so that you can recognize normal and abnormal sounds and activity.    |

| <b><i>Recognize Abnormal Behaviours and Know "Best Bets" for the cause</i></b> |  |
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| <b>Off Food</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colic – watch for other signs</li> <li>○ Fever – take temperature</li> <li>○ Teeth problems</li> <li>○ Water deprivation</li> <li>○ Other medical problems</li> </ul> |
| <b>Laying Down</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colic – watch for other signs</li> <li>○ Founder/Laminitis (stiff, stilted gate and feet are warm)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Eating Slow</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fever</li> <li>○ Urinary disease</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Diarrhea</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dietary change</li> <li>○ Colic - watch for other signs</li> <li>○ Other medical problems (often abnormal temperature and loss of appetite)</li> </ul>                |

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| <b>Stiff and Reluctant to move</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tying up – onset during exercise</li> <li>○ Laminitis – hindquarters tucked up and feet warm</li> <li>○ Early Colic – watch for other signs</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Straining to Pass Manure</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colic</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Straining to Urinate</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colic</li> <li>○ Urinary disease</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Severe Lameness – one foot</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Abscess</li> <li>○ Nail or stone</li> <li>○ Puncture</li> <li>○ Fracture</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Pawing, Stretching, Looking at Sides, Rolling, Laying Down</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colic</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Depressed</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fever</li> <li>○ Colic</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Snotty Nose/Cough</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upper respiratory infection – check temperature</li> <li>○ Lower respiratory infection – check temperature</li> <li>○ Allergic – irritated attitude, appetite and temperature normal</li> </ul>                 |
| <b>Runny Eyes</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In both eyes and non-painful – could be allergy</li> <li>○ In one eye and non-painful – could be blocked tear duct</li> <li>○ In one eye and painful – could be injury or infection so call your Vet</li> </ul> |

***ALWAYS REMEMBER...WHEN IN DOUBT....CALL YOUR VET***

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