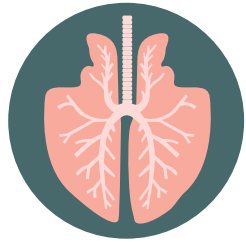
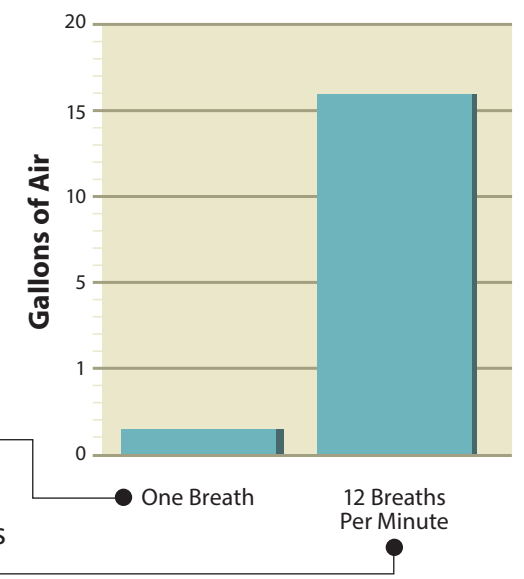


Your horse's vital signs



RESPIRATION

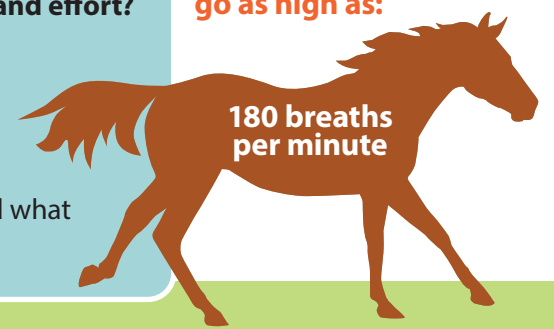
- A normal horse takes in about 1.25 gallons of air with each breath.
- At 12 breaths per minute a horse will take in 15 gallons of air per minute.



NORMAL RESTING RESPIRATION	Breaths per minute
Mature horses	8 - 24
Newborn foals	60 - 80
Older foals	20 - 40

What can cause an abnormal elevated respiration rate and effort?

- Pain
- Fever
- Heat stress or heat stroke
- Respiratory illness/distress
- Strenuous exercise beyond what the horse is capable of



Abnormal respiration rates should be reported to your veterinarian. Horses in acute respiratory distress should be treated immediately.

Check your horse's vital signs when he or she is at rest so you can determine what is normal.



The resting heart will pump about 10 gallons of blood per minute. When working at maximum capacity it can pump 65 to 75 gallons of blood per minute!

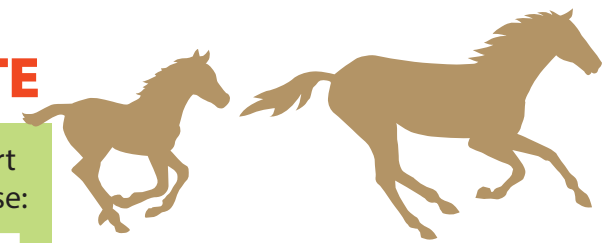
HEART RATE

Normal resting heart rate for an adult horse:
28-44
Beats Per Minute (BPM)

Horses with a resting heart rate of over 50 bpm should be evaluated.

What can cause an abnormal increase in resting heart rate?

- Excitement
- Stress
- Pain
- Infection
- Illness



Heart rates in young horses

Age	BPM
Newborn foals	80-100
Older foals	60-80
2-year-olds	45-65

Heart rates in exercising horses*

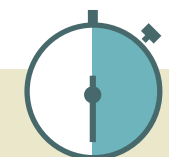
Activity	BPM
Walking	80
Trotting	130
Cantering	180
Galloping	200

*Maximum heart rate 200-240

EVALUATING FITNESS



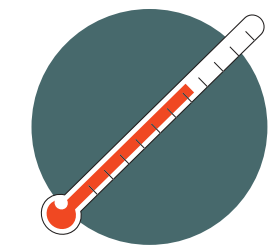
A fit horse's heart rate will return to normal within 15 minutes after exercise has ended.



A horse that is working toward increasing his fitness level will recover within 30 minutes.



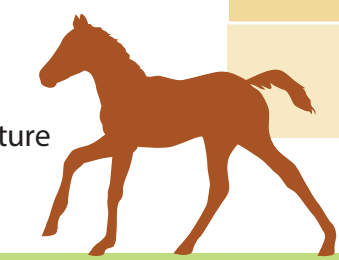
A horse that is exercising beyond his fitness level will take longer than 30 minutes to recover.



TEMPERATURE

Temperature in foals

A foal that is less than one month old will have a normal temperature range between 100°F and 102°F.



Temperature in adult horses

98° to 101.5° is the NORMAL range for adult horses.

2° to 3° higher than your horse's normal is a SLIGHT fever.

4° higher than your horse's normal is a HIGH fever.

105° or more Call your vet.

Foals are at greater risk for either overheating or hypothermia because of their smaller body mass.

What can cause a high temperature?

POSSIBLE CAUSE

- **Strenuous exercise** can increase a horse's body temperature a couple of degrees.
- **Illness or infection** can cause a rise in body temperature.
- **Heat stress or heat stroke** in horses that are sick, working, being shipped or otherwise stressed in hot, humid conditions.
- **Vaccinations** can lead to elevated body temperatures in some horses.

CONSULT YOUR VET

- If temperature doesn't return to normal within 90 minutes of finishing work.
- If your horse has an unexplained high fever.
- If your horse's temperature reaches 105° or more.
- If fever persists more than a day.

To learn more, visit KPPusa.com



info@KPPusa.com
KPPusa.com
859-873-2974