

Horse TPR record card

Temperature, pulse and respiration. Learn your horse's normal while it is well.



HORSE

AGE

VET PHONE

Normal at rest adult horse, standing quietly

Reading	Normal range	How to count
Temperature	Around 37.0 to 38.5°C	Digital thermometer, rectal
Pulse	Around 28 to 44 beats a minute	Beats in 15 seconds, times four
Respiration	Around 8 to 16 breaths a minute	Breaths in 15 seconds, times four. Quiet and regular.

Ranges from British Equestrian. A 2019 study of 41 healthy horses found a lower normal temperature of 36.0 to 38.0°C, so some healthy horses simply run cool. Foals and young horses run faster; very fit horses often sit lower. Your own horse's normal matters more than any chart.

How to take each reading

Temperature

Lubricate a digital thermometer. Stand to the side of the hindquarters, never behind. Insert gently and angle it to touch the rectal wall. Wait for the beep.

Pulse

Fingertips, not thumb, under the jawbone where the artery crosses it. Horse standing quietly and not eating. Count 15 seconds, times four.

Breathing

Stand to the side and watch the flank. One rise and one fall is one breath. Count 15 seconds, times four. Let the horse settle first.

My horse's normal at rest, same time of day, for a week

Date	Time	Temp °C	Pulse	Breaths	Notes (weather, rug, after work?)
My horse's normal					Repeat in a different season

Ring your vet if

- **Temperature is 38.5°C or above.** That is fever, especially if it is still raised after rest and a recheck.
- **Pulse or breathing is well above your horse's normal** while it stands quietly, with no reason such as heat, work or excitement.
- **Breathing looks laboured**, noisy, or the nostrils flare at rest.
- **An odd reading comes with anything else:** dullness, not eating, pawing, looking at its belly, lying down more, reluctance to move.
- **You are unsure.** A reading you can't interpret on a horse that isn't right is a reason to call.

When you ring, give the numbers and the time.

"38.9°C and a pulse of 52 at 7am. Last week he was 37.4°C and 36." helps far more than "he feels hot".

Readings rise after work, excitement, travel, feeding or on a hot day. The test is whether they **settle** in ten to fifteen minutes.

TPR log

For a horse that isn't right, during recovery, or every day for a week after a show, clinic or yard move.



HORSE

NORMAL T / P / R

VET PHONE

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After mixing with outside horses, take the temperature daily for a week. Redwings notes fever is typically the first sign of strangles, appearing two to three days on average before a horse becomes infectious to others.