

Before you call the vet

This horse's normal values, what to check and what to say



This horse

Name _____ Born _____

Vet _____ Number _____

Out-of-hours number _____ Owner, number _____

Normal values at rest, measured on a healthy day

What	Book value	Normal for this horse	Measured on
Temperature	37.5–38.5 °C (99.5–101.5 °F)		
Pulse	28–44 a minute		
Breathing	8–16 a minute		

Above 38.5 °C (101.5 °F) is a fever · gums pink, pink again within 2 seconds after pressing · 8–12 piles of droppings a day.

Call at once for

- ☐ Rolling, pawing, looking at the flank, sweating without work
- ☐ No droppings, or not eating and drinking
- ☐ A deep wound, a wound near a joint, a closed eye
- ☐ Suddenly quiet and sweaty after violent restlessness
- ☐ Temperature above 38.5 °C (101.5 °F)
- ☐ Unwilling to stand or walk, severely lame
- ☐ Feed from the nose, retching, laboured breathing
- ☐ In doubt

What I check today

Date and time _____ Temperature _____

Eating? Drinking? _____

Droppings: how many, what like _____

Posture and behaviour _____

What changed (feed, field, work, rug, farrier, vaccination) _____

Pulse _____ Breathing _____

What I tell the vet, in this order

- ☐ Who I am, which horse, where he is
- ☐ What I see and since when
- ☐ Temperature (and his normal), eating and drinking, droppings
- ☐ Pulse and breathing if I have them
- ☐ What changed, and what medication he gets
- ☐ What I have already done