

TPR FOR HORSES

Temperature
Pulse (or heart) rate
Respiration rate

Checking your horse's TPR is an easy to monitor his health – abnormal readings are key indicators of pain or illness. It's good practice to regularly measure and record your horse's TPR when he's at rest, so you know what's normal. It's also important to check his TPR in the days after meeting horses outside his normal social group, such as at a show.

Temperature

With your horse secured, turn on a digital thermometer and insert the lubricated end into his rectum, making sure to stand to one side. Angle it so it touches the inside of the rectum.

Wait until the thermometer beeps, then remove it and check the reading.

Pulse (or heart) rate

Place your fingers under your horse's jawbone, feeling for his facial artery.

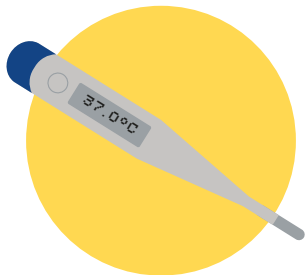
Apply gentle pressure until you can feel a pulsing sensation.

Count the number of pulses in 15 seconds, then multiply by four to work out pulse rate per minute.

Respiration rate

Stand by your horse's side and watch his flank rise (inhale or breathing in) and fall (exhal or breathing out). One inhale and one exhale equals one breath.

Count the breaths taken in 15 seconds, then multiply by four to calculate number of breaths per minute.



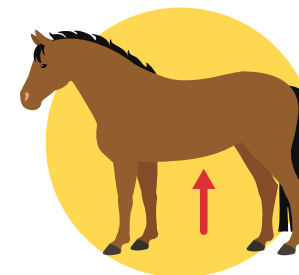
What's normal?

Around
37.0–38.5°C



What's normal?

Around 28–44
beats per minute



What's normal?

Around 8–16 quiet,
regular breaths per
minute