



SOUTH MOUNTAIN EQUINE

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Vital Signs for Horses and Ponies

<u>Vital Sign</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Variances</u>
Temperature	99 – 101.5 degrees F	In winter temperature can get as low as 97 degrees F
Pulse	28 – 42 beats per minute	Pulse will be higher after exercise
Respiration	8 – 16 breaths per minute	Respiration will be higher after exercise
Capillary Refill Time	Less than 2 seconds	
Mucus Membranes	Pink (bubble gum color)	
Hoof Temperature	Warm	

Basic Guidelines for calling your veterinarian: Temperature > 102 degrees F, Pulse > 44, Respirations > 20, Capillary Refill Time (CRT) > 3 seconds, Mucous Membranes white, red or blue (purple), Hoof temperature = hot, or if your horse is not eating (even it's favorite stuff) or is listless. **You know your horse best**, please use your judgment as well as these guidelines to determine when to call your veterinarian. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.