



Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital  
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## What is NORMAL?

It is important to know your horse's baselines.

**Temperature: 99.0F to 101.0F**

**Pulse: 30 - 44 beats** per minute.

**Respiration: 8-16 breaths** per minute.

**Mucous Membrane Color:** (color of gum tissue in mouth) Should be **pink** and **moist**.

**CRT:** (Capillary Refill Time - amount of time it takes for the color to return to gum tissue adjacent to the teeth after pressing and releasing your thumb). Usually **less than 2 seconds**.

**GI Motility:** (Gastrointestinal) Use a stethoscope or ear to flank - all four quadrants should have **3-4 sounds per minute**.

**Movement:** Is your horse walking and trotting as sound as normal? Can your horse turn its head easily in all directions?

**Water and food consumption:** A horse may drink **8-20 gallons of water/day**. Foals - watch mare for dripping milk, as this can be a sign the foal is not nursing. Lactating mares may need additional water.

**Manure:** Horses may defecate every 3-4 hours. Is your horse's manure its normal consistency? Is your horse's tail wet from diarrhea?

**Urine:** Frequency may differ depending on water intake/exercise - it is normal during the winter for urine to be red tinged after it mixes with snow.