

# South Shore Equine Clinic & Diagnostic Center

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## Normal Values for Ponies & Horses

### Normal Values

- Heart Rate: 30-48 beats per minute
- Resp. Rate: 12-20 breaths per minute
- Temp.: 99.5 – 100.5
- Digital Pulses: barely felt, same in all four feet
- Gut Sounds: present in all 4 chambers
- Eyes: open, bright, no discharge
- Ears: up, inquisitive
- Stance: all 4 limbs, no pointing
- Manure: formed buns, slight glisten
- Appetite: complete
- Drinking: consistent

### Abnormal Clues

- Depressed:
  - back of stall, not eating
  - resting/pointing one leg
  - water buckets full
  - not eating as usual
  - decreased or soft manure
- Pain/Stress:
  - Heart Rate increased (>60)
  - sweating
  - Resp. Rate increased (30)
  - anxious – getting up and down
  - not eating
- Sick:
  - coughing in stall, while working/riding
  - not eating
  - fever (temp. > 101.5)
  - gut sounds decreased
  - +/- manure changes (hard, soft)
- Injuries:
  - eyes:** red, closed, weeping
  - skin:** cut, bleeding, weeping
  - swelling:** warm, painful
  - Digital Pulses:** increased (one-foot, front feet, all 4)

**Colic:**

Definition: intestinal discomfort, dysfunction

Stomach, SI, LI, Small colon, large colon –approximately hundreds of feet

- twist – very painful – surgery
- displace – uncomfortable – surgery, bumpy ride, roll
- impaction – uncomfortable, appetite and manure changes (early)
- gas – very painful, can be relieved with tubes and exercise, drugs
- ulcers – poor appetite, intermittent colic (80 % racehorses, 30 % stalled horses)
- enteritis – medical (fever, reflux)

Treatments:

- NG tube – relieve gas, reflux
- mineral oil, electrolytes
- IV fluids – lots
- painkillers, anti-inflammatories
- trailer rides
- surgery

**Lacerations:**

- BLEEDING FOR > 10 MINUTES
- See deep layers of skin
- Below hock and knee – proud flesh
- Within 6 hours
- Around eyes

Treatments:

- sutures
- antibiotics
- wraps
- anti-inflammatories
- stall rest

**Eyes:**

Red, closed, tearing, mucous, cut lid

- conjunctivitis
- injury to cornea (ulcers)
- tumors
- cuts
- blocked tear ducts
- anterior uveitis (Moon Blindness)

Treatments:

- anti-inflammatories (topical, systemic)
- antibiotic ointments
- atropine
- anti-fungals
- flushing