

# The Healthy Horse (11/13/2008)

## First impression

- Body Condition
- Hair and Skin
- Eyes and Nostrils
- Swelling of Legs, Head, Underbelly
- Lameness, Favoring of one Leg
- Condition of Hooves

## Behavior

- Alert
- Aggressive
- Nervous or Skittish
- Dull or Unresponsive
- Unusual Behavior (uncoordinated movement, walking in circles etc.)

## Heart Rate

- Ca. 35 - 45 Times per Minute
- Higher in Foals and after Exercise

### Breathing Rate

- Ca. 10 – 20 Times per Minute
- Higher in Foals and after Exercise

### Body Temperature

- 99 – 101 Fahrenheit
- Higher after Exercise
- Call your Vet if Temperature is Higher than 102 F

### Mucous Membrane Color

- Check Gum Color Above Teeth
- Normal Color is Pink

### Capillary Refill Time

- Press Your Finger on Un-Pigmented Gum Tissue above Teeth
- Color Will Disappear, Leave a White Finger-Shaped Spot
- Color Should Return Within 1 – 2 Seconds

## Dehydration

- Grab a Pinch of Skin on Your Horse's Neck, Then Release It
- The Longer it Takes to Spring Back into Place, the More Severe the Dehydration

## Teeth

- Baby or Permanent Teeth
- Missing Teeth
- Discolored or Cracked Teeth
- Signs of Cribbing
- Bad Breath
- Mouth Sores
- Excessive Drooling

## Hooves

- Shape and Size of Hooves
- Condition and Quality of Horn
- Condition of Shoes

## Legs

- "Clean" Legs
- Swelling of Joints or Tendons
- Pulse
- Flex Pain
- Skin Problems

## Movement

- Weight Distribution
- Lameness in Front
- Lameness in Hind
- Foundering