

BASIC EQUINE FIRST AID GUIDLINES

Vital Signs

Adult Horse:

Temperature:	99.5-101.5 F
Heart Rate:	33-44 beats/minute
Respiratory Rate:	6-16 breaths/minute
Gums:	Pale Pink
Capillary Refill:	1-2 seconds
Gut Sounds:	Always Present

Foals:

Temperature:	Increased the first four days after birth, then plateaus at 100-102 F
Heart Rate:	60-110 beats/minute
Respiratory:	25-60 breaths/minute

Basic First Aid

Lacerations:

- Control hemorrhage, bandage or direct pressure
- Clean contaminated wounds with clear water and antiseptic soap
- Give anti-inflammatories, control swelling, bandage
- Attention to punctures, clip and flush, horse should be current on Tetanus

Colic:

- Mild to moderate pain, obtain vital signs then call for assistance/advice
- No food, walk 10-15 minutes and re assess
- Severe or unrelenting pain, CALL THE VETERINARIAN

Lameness:

- Look for swelling, heat, palpation pain
- Apply ice packs or cold hosing to affected area for 15-20 min
- Apply quilt and polo wrap over affected lower limb to control swelling
- If there is no apparent swelling, most lamenesses originate in the foot-possible causes can be anything from an abscess or sole bruising, to broken bones in the foot. These lamenesses can all look the same!

EQUINE FIRST AID KIT

Basic First Aid Kit (keep in barn or trailer)

- **Thermometer**
- **Bute Paste**
- **Banamine Paste**
- **Triple Antibiotic Eye Ointment**
- **Medium Exam Gloves**
- **Tourniquet (piece of tire inner tube)**
- **Saline Solution**
- **Rubbing Alcohol**
- **8 oz Betadine Scrub**
- **8 oz Betadine Solution**
- **Gauze Sponges**
- **Furocin Ointment**
- **White tape**
- **Vet Wrap**
- **Elastikon, 3 inch**
- **Sterile Surgical Pads**
- **Duct Tape**
- **Leg Wrap, cotton roll or quilt wraps**
- **Baby Diapers**

Additional Supplies, optional items:

- **Flashlight**
- **Bandage Scissors**
- **Stethoscope**
- **Notebook and Pen (to record time drugs are given and doses, and vital signs)**
- **Clippers**
- **Epsom Salts**
- **Spray Bottle (to irrigate wounds with dilute betadine)**

Trail Ride Kit:

- **Hoof Pick**
- **Sterile Pad**
- **Vet Wrap**

Considerations for Emergency Situations:

- **Trailer Arrangements**
- **Emergency Phone Numbers**