

**TAYLOR  
EQUINE  
HOSPITAL**

1231 W. Taylor  
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Turlock, CA  
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**(209) 669-8600**

24 Hour  
Emergency  
Care

# Thought from the Doc

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## Equine 911

Your horse is off feed, you see fresh blood, or he suddenly develops a limp. These problems can cause even the most experienced owner to be concerned. If you notice any of the following problems, your horse needs help right away.

- Injury to the eye.
- Sick foal— nursing less frequently, laying down more often than usual.
- Choking— feed coming out of the nose and/or mouth.
- Heavy bleeding or deep cuts.
- Acute lameness/fracture.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Severe diarrhea.



In situations where your horse is showing any of the above problems or signs of colic (off feed, laying down, rolling, pawing) you will be one step ahead if you know your horse's vital signs. Average vital signs for an adult horse are:

- Temperature 99.0-101.0,
- Heart rate 24-44 beats per minute,
- Respiratory rate 10-32 breaths per minute,
- Gums moist and pink. Press on the gums with a finger and count how long it takes for the color to return. It should be less than 2 seconds.
- Gut sounds— listen on both sides of the gut by putting your ear against each flank. You should hear gurgling sounds.

It is also good to post important numbers such as emergency contacts and your veterinarian's number where they are easily accessed. Don't hesitate to call if you are worried about your horse. We would rather give you advice early in the course of a problem. This is often cheaper and less stressful for you.

-Your Friends at Taylor Equine Hospital