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Norma Vital Signs for a Resting Adult Horse

Temperature—99.5-101.5 F (depending on environmental temperature)

Heart Rate—32-44 beats per minute

Respiratory Rate—8-20 breaths per minute

Gum Color—pink and moist

Refill Time--<2 seconds

Skin Tent(ON POINT OF SHOULDER)--<2 seconds

Muscle Tone –soft and supple

Signs of Common Problems

Colic—not eating, pawing, lying down

Up and down, sweating

Rolling uncontrollably

Tie Up—Very stiff, tight muscles, unwilling to move-often confused with colic

Thumps—Flanks move or “thump” with each heart beat

Choke—difficulty swallowing, lots of slimy nasal discharge with food

Hives—multiple small, usually circular swelling, can be local or whole body

Heaves—exercise intolerance, coughing, difficulty breathing

Scratches—swollen, crusted, painful lower limbs

First Aid Supplies

Equipment—Thermometer, stethoscope, flashlight or headlamp

Bandage Supplies—non-stick pads, soft roll gauze, cotton sheets, vet wrap

Duct tape, elastic tape, baby diapers, antibiotic ointment, foot poultice

Soft roll cotton

Medications—electrolyte powder or paste, antibiotic eye ointment*,

Bute*, Banamine*, SMZ tablets

* these medications are prescriptions and require an active relationship with a veterinarian