



## When to Call the Veterinarian

### Call the veterinarian immediately if:

- ~There is heavy bleeding from any part of the body and the bleeding will not stop
- ~There is blood in the urine
- ~Horse has difficulty breathing - gasping, noisy distressful breathing, blue tongue
- ~Burns are fairly extensive
- ~The horse is choking or appears distressed, extends the head and neck, salivates, coughs, grunts strikes the ground. When food and saliva may be regurgitated through the nostrils.
- ~The horse collapses or has loss of balance. Overreaction to an external stimuli with one or more of the following: depression, staggering knuckling over, walking in circles, down and unable to get up, general muscle tremor with or without sweating, rigidity, paddling movements of legs, shock or coma
- ~Diarrhea, putrid smelling, fluid diarrhea with or without blood or severe abdominal pain
- ~Severe injury with continuous pain, severe lameness, lacerations with bone exposed, puncture wound especially on the chest or abdomen
- ~Uncontrollable biting, itching, tearing at skin where skin has become broken and bleeding
- ~Severe pain from continuous or spasmodic Colic, severe abdominal pain, continuous or spasmodic, unable to pass feces
- ~Poisoning, from chemicals, snake bite or poisonous plant ingestion (try to retain sample of the poison for the veterinarian if possible)
- ~Straining continuously with little or no result. Horse positions themselves to urinate or defecate without results or exhibits pain
- ~Difficulty breathing
- ~Severe lacerations or punctures

### Call the veterinarian the same day if:

- ~You have discovered a miscarriage of a fetus
- ~If the afterbirth is retained for longer than eight hours after delivery
- ~Signs of appetite loss, along with depression, painful breathing, diarrhea, lying down, sweating, or obvious pain
- ~Difficult breathing, labored breathing, rapid and shallow breathing with or without a cough
- ~Diarrhea no stool formation, mostly fluid eye problems, tears streaming down cheeks, eyelids partially or completely closed, cornea surface of the eye scratched, hazy, opaque or bluish-white appearance
- ~Frostbite and hypothermia - low body temperature usually occurs in sub-zero temperatures
- ~Injuries that are not urgent but liable to become infected. A cut through full thickness of skin, needing stitches puncture wound on foot or sudden acute lameness
- ~Swelling that appears hot, hard and painful or is discharging

### Monitor and wait 24 hours before calling the veterinarian if:

- ~Appetite loss, horse isn't eating but offers no other symptoms



- ~Diarrhea loose stools with no sign of blood or straining and no abdominal pain moderate itching with no surface damage
- ~Lameness but maintains ability to bear weight on the leg with no other symptoms
- ~Excessive thirst, often accompanied by excessive urination

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