



## Vital Signs in Horses and Donkeys

Normal ranges for vital signs in horses and donkeys when at rest and relaxed:

### Adult horses

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Heart rate         | 28-44 beats per minute       |
| Respiration rate   | 10-14 breaths per minute     |
| Rectal temperature | 37°C-38.5°C (99.5°F-101.3°F) |

### Foals

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Heart rate                   | 60-110 beats per minute   |
| Respiration rate             | 25-60 breaths per minute  |
| Rectal temperature (resting) | Increases for first 4 days and plateaus at 37.2°C-38.6°C (99°F-101.5°F) |

### Adult donkeys

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Heart rate         | 36-68 beats per minute       |
| Respiratory rate   | 12-44 breaths per minute     |
| Rectal temperature | 36.2°C-37.8°C (97.2°F-100°F) |

### Young donkeys (up to 2 years)

|                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Heart rate         | 36-68 beats per minute         |
| Respiration rate   | 12-20 breaths per minute       |
| Rectal temperature | 36.5°C-38.9°C (97.8°F-102.1°F) |

### General

The gums should be pink and moist, and should return to that color within 2 seconds of pressing with your finger on the gum line above the teeth and then releasing (this is known as the capillary refill time).