



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).