



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).