

NORMAL RANGES



HEART (PULSE) RATE

28 – 44 beats per minute



RESPIRATORY (BREATHING) RATE

8 – 16 breaths per minute



TEMPERATURE

37.5 – 38.5°C (99.5 – 101.3°F)

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- There will be variation between individual horses and each horse will have a different 'normal' value for them. This is because the value is dependent on age, the size of the horse and the level of fitness. Heart rate and respiratory rate can increase in horses as a result of stress, anxiety, excitement or exercise. Values may also be increased in horses who are experiencing pain for any reason, or when the horse becomes ill.
- Regularly taking your own horse's pulse rate, respiration rate and temperature is important as it will provide you with the knowledge of what is normal for your horse.
- Some horses may have values which are consistently out of the 'normal' range in a similar way to some humans. This may not be any cause for concern. However, in these cases it is advisable to have the horse checked by a veterinary surgeon to ensure there are no underlying conditions.