

**AVAILABLE**  
**24 HRS**  
**(503)663-1515**

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# Columbia Equine Hospital

27841 SE Orient Dr. Gresham OR 97080



The information you give to the emergency veterinarian will help them determine the severity of the condition and be better prepared to provide prompt and efficient service. In many instances, when given accurate, detailed information about your horse's condition, the veterinarian can suggest a course of action prior to arrival on the farm. It is also important to give detailed directions to your home or barn and a phone number where you can be reached.

NORMAL VITAL SIGNS	TEMPERATURE		HEART RATE	RESPIRATION
	Adult Horse	98-101.5 F	30-44 beats/min	8-16 breaths/min
Foal	99-102 F	60-100 beats/min	20-40 breaths/min	



### NASAL DISCHARGE

- CLINICAL SIGNS**
- Blood, thick yellow discharge, feed or saliva coming from one or both nostrils
  - Coughing
  - Anxious & tossing head
- WHAT TO DO**
- Take temperature
  - Feel throat latch area & under the jaw for swelling or tenderness
  - Remove food if showing signs of distress
  - Keep horse as calm as possible
  - If the discharge is yellow, quarantine the affected horse from others & do not touch other horses until the affected horse is evaluated
  - Call your veterinarian



### COLIC

- CLINICAL SIGNS**
- Pawing the ground, looking at belly, stretching out attempting to urinate
  - Curling the upper lip
  - Sweating, breathing hard/fast
  - Horse may lie down, start rolling
  - Horse is often very anxious
  - Depressed, not eating
  - Some may become violent
- WHAT TO DO**
- **IF SAFE:** take temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, listen for gut sounds
  - Hand walk the horse in an open area with soft footing
  - Remove food
  - Watch for passing of gas & manure
  - Call your veterinarian

### LOSS OF APPETITE

- CLINICAL SIGNS**
- Picking at feed
  - Eating hay but not grain (or vice versa)
  - May take a mouthful of feed but not chew
  - Drooling or has a foul odor coming from the mouth
- WHAT TO DO**
- Take temperature
  - Look for manure in the stall
  - Evaluate consistency of feces
  - Remove food
  - Watch for any other signs (colic signs)
  - Check water consumption
  - Call your veterinarian



### WOUND

- CLINICAL SIGNS**
- If bleeding, call vet immediately
  - Where is the laceration?
  - Did you see it happen? If so how did it happen?
  - Is the wound clean or dirty?
  - Is the area around the cut swollen?
  - What can you see inside the cut?
  - How big is the laceration?
- WHAT TO DO**
- Call your veterinarian first
  - Cold hose area if vet approves
  - Do not apply any topical medications until after veterinary consultation
  - If bleeding, apply pressure over the wound with a clean standing wrap. Do not remove the bandage until the vet arrives.
  - Check tetanus vaccine history



### ALLERGIC REACTION

- CLINICAL SIGNS**
- Recent vaccination, deworming or drug administration
  - May occur following insect/snake bites
  - Swelling at injection site
  - May be stiff & be unwilling to move
  - Swelling on muzzle, eyelid, sheath or throat
  - May start making a snoring sound when breathing
- WHAT TO DO**
- Call your veterinarian as soon as possible, especially if breathing is a problem
  - If hives or local swelling are present, cold hose
  - Remove food
  - Move to cool location if possible
  - Call your veterinarian



### EYE TRAUMA

- CLINICAL SIGNS**
- Upper or lower eyelids may be swollen
  - Horse may squint in the sunlight or appear to be in pain
  - The eye may appear cloudy
  - The horse may have tears or discharge coming from the eye
  - The horse may appear blind
- WHAT TO DO**
- Remove from bright sunlight
  - Apply cold compress
  - Call your veterinarian



### SWOLLEN LEG

- CLINICAL SIGNS**
- Leg/legs are swollen
  - May or may not be lame
  - May be off feed
- WHAT TO DO**
- Take temperature
  - Look for scabs/cuts on the swollen leg
  - Do not move the horse if severely lame
  - Cold hose the leg & apply standing wrap
  - Call your veterinarian

### SUDDEN LAMENESS

- CLINICAL SIGNS**
- Cannot bear weight or is noticeably lame on one (or more) legs
  - Unwilling to move
  - Tender footed
  - Recent history of vaccination or intramuscular drug administration
- WHAT TO DO**
- Do not move the horse
  - Look for obvious heat/swelling in affected leg
  - Clean out the foot and look for nails or other foreign objects. If you find a nail, **DO NOT REMOVE.**
  - Call your veterinarian