

## HORSE VITAL SIGNS INFORMATION SHEET

### TEMPERATURE

- Healthy temperature for horses is between 99-101 F
- If a horse is sick, it can have a higher temperature
- If a horse is underweight, it can have a lower temperature



### PULSE OR HEART RATE

- A healthy heart rate for a horse can range from 30-40 beats per minute
- Exercise or pain can cause a horse to have a faster heart rate
- If a horse is in shock they might have a slower heart rate
- You can check a horse's heart rate with a stethoscope by placing the stethoscope in the horse's armpit OR by checking for the horse's pulse by right above their hoof

### RESPIRATION RATE

- A healthy respiration or breathing rate for a horse is between 8- 20 breaths per minute
- If a horse is sick or they just exercised, they could have a faster respiration rate
- You can check a horse's respiration rate by watching their belly rise and fall OR by putting your hands in front of their nose and feeling their breath



### GUT SOUNDS

- Each horse is different, but quite gurgling is generally normal
- Causes of hyperactive gut:
  - Colic
  - New feed
  - New to grass
- Causes of decreased gut sounds-
  - Impaction
  - Fatigue from exercise
  - Shock