

# 2026 Horse Project Record Book Juniors



Ages 8-14 must complete  
this by May 1st.

Exhibitor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026

***This is the age you will be showing at fair***

Exhibitor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or  
Leader Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Horse Project Record Book Requirements

4-H Horse Project Members may elect to participate in 4-h Winter achievement with a Horse Science Project (See WA events catalog for details).OR Participate in Hippology/Horse Judging: Attend a minimum of 5 meetings and 1 competition INSTEAD of completing the Require Project Record Book.

- 1.Resources to be used to complete this record book to be Scored: "4-H & Horse and Horsemanship, Horse Science, Horseless Horse, State 4-H Horse Show Rules and Regulations, SCC 4-h & Youth Fair Book, SCC Miniature Horse Show Guidelines and the other resources directly provided in record book ONLY.
- 2.All Books Must be Signed by Exhibitor and Parent or Leader.
- 3.ALL PAGES that are listed as required for your division MUST BE COMPLETED regardless of incorrect answers. DO NOT LEAVE ANY BLANK ANSWERS. If the line does not apply to you, please put N/A. N/A will only be acceptable for answers that are not found in books above or within the project record book itself. If answers are left blank that is considered INCOMPLETE PAGE. Two or more INCOMPLETE PAGES it WILL be considered an INCOMPLETE BOOK.
- 4.INCOMPLETE or LATE BOOKS will NOT be eligible for Championship classes during FAIR. This is all Horse Project classes. Project Record Book is a REQUIREMENT.
- 5.INCOMPLETE Books will NOT BE SCORED and will automatically receive "C "rating.
- 6.Books that contain obvious adult contribution or inappropriate content will not be scored. This will make it an INCOMPLETE BOOK. If you have a special need, please let the Project Record Book Committee know. Please Complete the book to the best of your ability
- 7.Coloring Is allowed and encouraged. As well as completing pages from other age divisions. NO EXTRA CREDIT POINTS will be given for this. HOWEVER, Extra contribution could be used to determine top awards if needed. Such as a Tie.
- 8.Creativity, effort, correctness, and completeness will all be used in judging this record book.
- 9.ALL PROJECT RECORD BOOKS MUST BE TURNED IN MAY 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. Books will be judged and the top 10 scores in each division will receive placing, with Grand and Reserve if warranted.

Start Date of Book\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please Sign below saying I have read all the above requirements and I understand all of them.

Exhibitor\_\_\_\_\_

Leader Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Project Record Book

All pages will need to be completed for this to be graded. Project record Book is a Requirement for Their horse project. If Not Completed exhibitor will not be allowed to participate in any Grand and Reserve Classes at Fair. See horse project record book requirements page for other options.

This Year This Project Record Books is for seniors. Juniors Have another book.

Names of Pages	Points Available	Your Score
Front Cover	5	_____
Requirements	3	_____
Horse project animal	8	_____
horse judging	12	_____
Saddle up	25	_____
Inheritance and Genetic	20	_____
Inheritance and Genetic continued	29	_____
Age Determination	16	_____
Conformation	15	_____
Project Ground Rules	27	_____
Horse hair Use's	40	_____
Face Markings	6	_____
horse Health 911	19	_____
Horse budget	2	_____
Budget Worksheet	37	_____
Color	1	_____
Total	265	_____

# Horse Project Animal



Please answer the questions below and attach a photo of you and your horse.

Horse's Name

Breed

Age

What is your favorite thing to do with your horse?

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What color and markings does your horse have?

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How long have you owned or leased your horse?

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What are your goals with your horse this year?

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Attach Project Photo Here



## HORSE JUDGING FROM VARIOUS VIEWS

Side view (from a distance) - name 4 things a judge looks for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Rear view (from a distance) - name 2 things a judge looks for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Front view (from a distance) - name 2 things a judge looks for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On close inspection - name 4 things a judge looks for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

When horse is in action - name 2 things a judge looks for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/12 Points

# Saddle Up

## Fill in the blanks below:

1. The saddle must \_\_\_\_\_ the horse.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ should \_\_\_\_\_ interfere with the ability of the \_\_\_\_\_ to perform.
3. The saddle must be appropriate for the riding \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ associated with that riding style.
4. The saddle should fit the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the basic \_\_\_\_\_ of the saddle.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ saddles were developed for \_\_\_\_\_ work and have a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_, western saddles are used for \_\_\_\_\_, Show, \_\_\_\_\_ riding, ranch type work and \_\_\_\_\_ events.
8. Western saddles need a \_\_\_\_\_ or saddle \_\_\_\_\_ between the saddle and the horse's \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Using the illustration \_\_\_\_\_ list what the 5 Riggings shown would be used for below:
  - a) Full Double - \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) 7/8 Double- \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) In Skirt- \_\_\_\_\_
  - d)  $\frac{3}{4}$  Double- \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Center Fire- \_\_\_\_\_

## Inheritance and Genetics

### Fill in the blanks:

1. The study of how characteristics are passed from the parents to offspring is called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ are the only links of inheritance an animal has with its parents. A \_\_\_\_\_ cell from the sire and an \_\_\_\_\_ cell from the dam.
3. Complex chemical compounds which are the carriers of inheritance are called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Horses have \_\_\_\_\_ pairs of chromosomes in each cell.
5. Characteristics are passed from parents to offspring through \_\_\_\_\_ which are the "\_\_\_\_\_ " of the cell.
6. The formation of egg and sperm cells is called \_\_\_\_\_.
7. One pair of genes causes the coat to be either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ , depending on which particular combination of the \_\_\_\_\_ genes is present.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ gene is dominant.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ means genetic makeup.

### 10. Consider these circumstances:

- a.) A red (chestnut) mare(bb) is bred to a truly black stallion (BB). What color will the foal be? \_\_\_\_\_
- b.) A black stallion that has a Bb genotype is bred to a red (bb) mare, what color will the foal be? \_\_\_\_\_
- c.) A (Bb) stallion bred to (Bb) mare, what color will the foal be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Inheritance & Genetics continued**

11. List 6 traits in horses that are influenced by genes:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

12. Many equine crosses have been made, the most popular between the \_\_\_\_\_, as the male parent, and the horse \_\_\_\_\_ producing the \_\_\_\_\_.

13. A stallion bred to a jennet produces a \_\_\_\_\_.

14. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are usually sterile.

15. Stallions have one x \_\_\_\_\_ and one \_\_\_\_\_ chromosome, Their sex genotype is \_\_\_\_\_.

16. Mares have \_\_\_\_\_ x chromosomes. Their sex genotype is \_\_\_\_\_.

17. In reduction division in the stallion, half the \_\_\_\_\_ contain an \_\_\_\_\_ chromosome and half contain a \_\_\_\_\_ chromosome. In the mare all \_\_\_\_\_ cells contain an x \_\_\_\_\_.

18. If a sperm carrying an x chromosome \_\_\_\_\_ the egg, the foal will Have an xx genotype, and would develop as a \_\_\_\_\_

19. If a sperm carrying a \_\_\_\_\_ chromosome happens to fertilize the egg, the foal genotype would be \_\_\_\_\_ and would be a stallion.

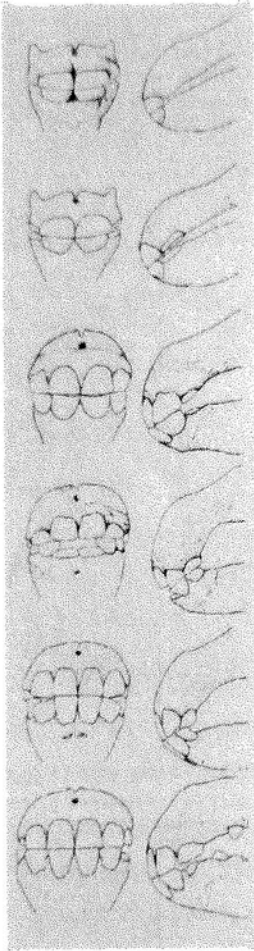
20. The chances are \_\_\_\_\_ for the foal to be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

## Age Determination

Please use the Horse Science book to fill in the blank, True or False, or match the picture to the age of horse.

1. Age determination is made by studying the twelve front teeth called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What are the four major ways to estimate age of horses by appearance of their teeth?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
3. True or False: A young horse has a total of 24 temporary teeth.
4. True or False: The number of permanent teeth does not depend on the horse's sex.
5. Young permanent teeth have \_\_\_\_\_ in the center of their surfaces which are also used to help determining age.
6. The shape of the teeth also change during \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Draw a Line from the correct age of horse to the picture of teeth.

	<p>A. 3.5 years</p> <p>B. 9 months</p> <p>C. 1 month</p> <p>D. 4.5 years</p> <p>E. 3 months</p> <p>F. 2.5 years</p>
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## **Conformation - Common defects**

**Fill in the blanks:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Excessive flexing of a hind leg; most easily detected when a horse is backed.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Heavy contact with ground instead of desired light, springy movement.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - A "scuffing" on the inside of the diagonal forefeet and hindfeet; generally confined to pacers.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - An exaggerated paddling particularly noticeable in high-going horses.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ - Striking fetlock or cannon with the opposite foot; most often done by base-narrow, toe-wide, or splay-footed horses.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ - The hairline at top of hindfoot hits toe of forefoot as it breaks over.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ - A defect detected when the animal favors the affected foot. The load on the ailing foot in action is eased and a characteristic bobbing of the head occurs as the affected foot strikes the ground.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ - A short, quick, choppy stride, a tendency of horses with short, straight pasterns and straight shoulders.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ - Striking forefoot with toe of hindfoot.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ - Excessive lateral shoulder motion; characteristic of horses with protruding shoulders.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ - Throwing the front feet outward as they are picked up, most common in toe-narrow or pigeon-toed horses.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ - A twisting of the striding leg around in front of supporting leg, which results in contact like that of a rope-walking artist.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ - A noticeable pause in the flight of the foot, as though the stride were completed before the foot reaches the ground.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ - The inside of diagonal fore and hind pastern make contact; sometimes seen in fast-trotting horses.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ - Perceptible extension of the stride with little flexion.



# ST. CLAIR COUNTY HORSE PROJECT GROUND RULES

Use the Horse Project Ground Rules found on the SCCHLA web page.

Answer True or False to the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Stall cards with members name, emergency contact number and club must be visible on the stall of the project animal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Aisles must not be kept clear at all times.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Project animals are to be bathed in designated wash area only.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leaders and parents are not responsible for their members obeying and following the rules.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Absolutely NO rough riding or racing is permitted in any horse ring.

## Fill In the Blanks

1. No riding or \_\_\_\_\_ on horses in or around the barns. NOTE: Members \_\_\_\_\_ ride in show/practice \_\_\_\_\_, or other designated areas assigned by \_\_\_\_\_ and the Fair Board \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Boots \_\_\_\_\_ be worn for stable \_\_\_\_\_. No \_\_\_\_\_ feet in the barns.
3. NO riding of \_\_\_\_\_ up or down \_\_\_\_\_. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ rule.
4. All riders must wear \_\_\_\_\_. Barefoot, sandals, \_\_\_\_\_, etc are not permissible while riding, handling or \_\_\_\_\_ for your horse(s).
5. No lunging of horses other than in \_\_\_\_\_ areas.
6. Members must enter \_\_\_\_\_ with proper attire and \_\_\_\_\_ per discipline. Check your state \_\_\_\_\_ book for further details.
7. No coffee makers/pots, \_\_\_\_\_, crock pots or electric \_\_\_\_\_ appliances are to be \_\_\_\_\_ in or maintained in any \_\_\_\_\_ or area surrounding barns.

**What Is Horse Hair Used For? (Top 10 Uses Reviewed)** Believe it or not, horse hair has a number of different uses, some of them quite surprising. It's strong, durable and flexible, making it ideal for a variety of applications. From fabrics to wigs and from brushes to bows of musical instruments, the versatility of horse hair is truly astounding. So what is horse hair used for? In this article, we'll review 10 interesting uses of horse hair. **What is horse hair?** Horse hair is the hair that is usually taken from the horse's tail and mane. It is a type of protein fiber that is both strong and flexible. In the past, it was often used in the manufacturing of upholstery, bristles for brushes, and felts for hats. Today, horse hair is still used for these purposes, but it has also found new uses in a variety of industries. Horse hair comes in different lengths and quality levels. Accordingly, different types of hair is used in different applications. For instance, the hair from the mane is softer and longer and is, therefore, used in making fabrics or long-haired wigs. Medium-length or shorter hair from the tail is used in making bristles for brushes or to stuff upholstery. **What Is Horse Hair Used For?** Amongst the many

, horse hair is often overlooked. With its strength, flexibility, and durability, horse hair has a number of surprising uses. **Here are the top 10:** 1. **Fabrics** 2. **Bristles for brushes** 3. **Wigs** 4. **Pottery** 5. **Jewelry** 6. **Bows of musical string instruments.** 7. **Stuffing inside pillows and bedding** 8. **Fishing lures** 9. **Hats** 10. **Dusters.** Let's now look closely at each of these remarkable uses and products made using horse hair. **#1. Fabrics.** A common use of horse hair is in woven fabric. Horse hair fabric is made by interweaving horse hair with other fibers like wool, cotton or silk. This type of fabric is often used for upholstery, clothing, and other textiles. It's also used in carpets and rugs. Fabrics made from horse hair are known for their durability and strength. They're also resistant to stretching and creasing, making them ideal for clothing such as suits, dresses, skirts, and jackets. Horse hair fabrics also have a luster that adds a touch of elegance to any piece of clothing made from it. **#2. Bristles for brushes.** One of the most popular uses for horse hair is in the manufacturing of brushes. Horse hair bristles are used in a variety of different types of brushes, including paintbrushes, shaving brushes, and even some types of cosmetics brushes. The reason horse hair is so popular for brush-making is that it's able to retain its shape and stiffness, even when wet. This makes it the perfect material for brushes that need to maintain their shape and firmness, such as paintbrushes. Horse hair bristles are also soft enough to be gentle on the skin, making them ideal for shaving brushes and cosmetics brushes. **#3. Wigs.** Horse hair is also used in the production of wigs and hairpieces. The hair is often collected from the tail or mane of the horse, and then it's sewn or weaved into a wig cap. This type of wig is often used by people who are experiencing hair loss. Horse hair wigs are known for their natural look and feel. They're also very durable, making them a good choice for people who want a wig that will last for a long time. **#4. Pottery.** Horse hair is sometimes used in pottery as well. The hair is added to the clay before it's fired, and it creates interesting patterns in the glaze. This type of pottery is often used for decorative purposes. Using horse hair in pottery is not new. In fact, horse hair pottery is found in Native American Navajo art. The pottery is made by adding horse hair to the clay while it's being

shaped. When the pottery is fired, the horse hair burns away and leaves behind interesting patterns in the glaze.

**#5. Jewelry & Accessories.** Horse hair is also used to make a variety of different jewelry and accessories. Bracelets, necklaces, and rings are all commonly made using horse hair. The hair is often braided or woven into intricate designs. Accessories made using horse hair are often very strong and durable. They're also unique and stylish, making them a popular choice for people who want to add a touch of personality to their outfits. Common accessories made with horse hair include purses, belts, wallets and hats.

**#6. Bows of musical string instruments.** A very interesting application of horse hair is in the manufacturing of bows for string instruments. A bow will typically need 100 to 200 individual strands of hair which are then glued together. The horse hair is then attached to the bow's stick. Bows made with horse hair are known for their ability to produce a clear, crisp sound. They're also very flexible, which allows musicians to create a wide range of sounds. Bowed string instruments that use horse hair bows include violins, violas, cellos, and double basses.

**#7. Stuffing inside pillows and bedding.** Pillows and bedding are usually stuffed with materials like down or polyester fiberfill. However, some high-end pillows and bedding are stuffed with horse hair. Horse hair is a natural material, so it's often used as a stuffing because it's breathable and hypoallergenic. It's also very durable, so it can last longer without needing to be replaced. Typically, the shortest hairs are used for stuffing pillows and bedding because they're less useful for other applications like making fabric or bows for violins and then can be compacted together more densely.

**#8. Fishing lures.** People have been using horse hair for fishing lures or lines for centuries. The hair is strong and flexible, making it ideal for this purpose. Horse hair is spun together to produce very long lines. People who prefer not to use synthetic materials often use horse hair because it's a natural product.

**#9. Hats.** Hats made from horse hair can be very stylish and unique. The hair is often used to make brimmed hats, such as cowboy hats and fedoras. Horse hair hats aren't easy to make. Because horse hair is tough it doesn't bend easily. This makes it a challenge to shape into the desired hat form.

**#10. Dusters.** Just as horse hair is used to make brushes, another natural application is using it to make dusters. The hair is often used to make feather dusters, which are used for dusting furniture and other surfaces. Horsehair dusters are very effective at trapping dust and dirt. They're also gentle enough to use on delicate surfaces without damaging them.

**The Bottom Line.** Horse hair is an interesting raw material and can be taken from a live horse without causing it any pain. It's strong, durable, and stylish, making it a popular choice for many products. It is commonly used for making fabrics, brushes, dusters, wigs, jewelry, accessories, pottery, hats, fishing lures, stuffing inside pillows and bedding as well as for bows for musical string instruments.



### What Horse hair is used for

1. Horse hair is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ making it ideal for a variety of applications.
2. Horse hair is hair taken from the horses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It is a type of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Hair from the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Medium length or shorter hair from the \_\_\_\_\_ is used in making \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ of to stuff \_\_\_\_\_.

### List the top 10 uses of horse hair.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

### True or False

6. \_\_\_\_\_ horse hair fabric is made by interweaving horse hair with other fibers like lycra, polyester and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ fabric from horse hair stretches.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ different types of brushes from horse hair are paint brushes, shaving brushes and some cosmetic brushes.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ horse hair brushes retain its shape and stiffness, even when wet.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ hair for wigs is collected from the tail and forelock.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ horse hair wigs are known for their natural locks and feel
12. \_\_\_\_\_ hair is added to clay after its fired.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ using horse hair in pottery is new
14. \_\_\_\_\_ common accessories made with horse hair include purses, belts, wallets and hats
15. \_\_\_\_\_ bowed string instruments that use horse hair bows include violas, violins, cellos and double basses.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ horse hair is often used as a stuffing because it's breathable and hypoallergenic.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ people have been using horse hair for fishing lures or lines for a year
18. \_\_\_\_\_ the hair is used for brimmed hats such as cowboy hats and fedoras
19. \_\_\_\_\_ horse hair dusters are not effective at trapping dust and dirt
20. \_\_\_\_\_ horse hair is a raw material and can be taken from a live horse without causing it any pain.

# Face Markings

Please use the 4H Horses & Horsemanship Book to answer the following worksheet. Draw a line from the word to the correct marking.



Bald Face



Blaze



Star



Star, Stripe, Snip



Stripe



Snip

# Horse Health 911: When to call the veterinarian!

PUBLISHED ON

September 10, 2025

Although certain illnesses and conditions will have obvious signs and indicators that a veterinarian should be called, others may not. It is critical to know the normal behavior, attitude, and gait of your horses, since changes that could require veterinary attention may be subtle at first.

No one knows your horse better than you. Learn how to take your horse's heart rate (normal 38-40 beats per minute), respiratory rate (8-15) breaths per minute), and temperature (99-101.5 F), and know the normal values for your horse. Be familiar with normal gum color (light pink) and capillary refill time (less than 2 seconds). Understanding what is normal for your horse will help you identify subtle changes and will help improve communication with your veterinarian should an issue arise.

Equally important as knowing when to call your vet, is having a plan for emergencies. Keep important phone numbers readily available, have a plan for transportation if your horse requires a referral to a hospital, and keep a first aid kit on the farm and in your trailer. Consider discussing a backup veterinarian with your vet in case they are unavailable. Keeping directions and maps available to local veterinary hospitals may help expedite travel should that be necessary. Most importantly, remember to stay calm and call your vet sooner rather than later if you suspect a problem.

## Specific Symptoms and Conditions

Call the vet if your horse has:

- Fever
  - Adult: temperature greater than 101.5 °F
  - Foal: temperature greater than 102 °F
  - Temperatures over 103 °F indicate a serious problem and your horse should be placed in a cool area with fans and hosed off until the vet arrives
- Abnormal gum color (red, purple, white, or yellow)
- Squinting, swollen, cloudy or tearing eye
- Yellow or green nasal discharge
- Loss of appetite or difficulty eating
- Chronic cough



- Sweating profusely
- Lameness (head-bobbing, reluctant to walk or trot, laying down more than usual)
- Unable to get up
- Unable to move
- Uncoordinated gait (ataxia) or stumbling excessively
- Seizures or collapse
- Profuse bleeding, deep wounds, or lacerations
- Difficulty breathing (nostril flare, distressed, increased respiratory rate)
- Injury over a joint, tendon, or on the bottom of the foot
- Depression or anxiety
- Diarrhea (more than loose manure from excitement/trailering)
- Blood in urine
- Heat stress
- Unusual swelling or suspected bite (snake, spider, etc.)
- Mare is foaling and there is no progression in 10-15 minutes from water breaking.  
Normal deliveries take 30-40 minutes from water break to foal on the ground

## **Older Horse**

- Losing weight
- Not eating well
- Dropping feed or difficulty chewing may indicate dental disease
- Not shedding out in the spring/long, curly hair coat
- Drinking and/or urinating excessively
- Lameness
- See above specific symptoms and conditions

## **Foal**

- Remember the 1-2-3 Rule! 1 hour to stand, 2 hours to nurse, and 3 hours for the mare to pass the placenta. If any of these are broken, call your vet!
- Mare has no milk, foal not nursing, IgG low (not enough colostrum)
- All foals should be evaluated by a veterinarian within 12-24 hours of birth to ensure adequate passive transfer
- Diarrhea in the first few days of life or any diarrhea that persists
- Fever (temperature greater than 102 °F)
- Abnormal behavior
- Seizures or other neurological signs
- Unable to stand
- Colic, bloated
- Milk coming out of nose
- Difficulty breathing or increased respiratory rate
- Any abnormalities with the eye, for example: tearing, squinting, swelling, cloudy appearance
- Straining to urinate or defecate
- Lameness, swollen joint or joints

## Colic

- Pawing, rolling, stretching out, flank watching
- Signs are severe or unrelenting
- Persistent pain despite initial treatment with pain reliever/sedatives
- High heart rate/respiratory rate/abnormal gums
- Chronic, mild signs of color
- Sooner is always better than later – call when you notice a problem!

**Here is a Chart of Equine vital signs to help identify a Health Emergency!**

# Can You Identify Normal Horse Vital Signs?

## Normal Temperature

99.5 - 101.3°F



### How to check:

The most accurate way to take a horse's temperature is rectally (dipped in lubricant), using a digital thermometer.

### Tips:

- Always be sure to clean the thermometer after use
- Exercise, stress or infections can elevate temperature
- Leave the thermometer in long enough to avoid a false low reading

## Normal Pulse

38 - 40 beats/minute



### How to check:

There are 3 ideal areas to take your horse's pulse – under the jaw, beneath the tail at its base or an area on the side of the foot. Count for 15 seconds and multiply by 4.

### Tips:

- Don't double count heartbeats
- Foals – 70-120 beats/minute
- Yearlings – 45-60 beats/minute

## Normal Respiration

8 - 15 breaths/minute



### How to check:

Watching your horse's ribcage or nostrils for 1 minute, count 1 inhale and 1 exhale as a single breath.

### Tips:

- Do not measure respiration by letting your horse sniff your hand
- Wait for 30 minutes after exercise to check rate
- Respiration rate should not exceed pulse rate

## Dehydration

Skin takes more than 2 seconds to return to place



### How to check:

Pinch the skin on your horse's neck or shoulder area and it should return to its normal place within 1-2 seconds.

### Tips:

- Horses need 5-12 gallons of water per day in normal environments
- In heat or with heavy exercise, horses need 15-20 gallons of water per day

## Normal Gut Sound

Gurgling, sound of fluid dripping/tinkling



### How to check:

Place ear or a stethoscope up against horse's body, just behind the last rib, checking both sides.

### Tips:

- Call the vet if there is an absence of sound, as it could indicate colic

## Normal Capillary Refill Time

1 - 2 seconds



### How to check:

Place finger against horse's gums for 2 seconds, creating a white mark from finger pressure. The white mark should return to normal pink tone within 1-2 seconds.

## Other Tips



- Be sure to check vital signs regularly to know what is normal, so you can identify anything abnormal
- Do not take vital measurements on a nervous horse, to ensure accuracy
- Call your veterinarian immediately if anything is abnormal

**Please answer the following questions using the article provided on horse health.**

**True or false – Please write a T or F on the line.**

**You need to call the vet if:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) Horse is depressed looking and has a temp of 103.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Your horses eye is swollen and tearing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) Horse has a mild cough but no fever and is eating normally.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4) Horse is laying down and snoring.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5) Horse is running around and whinnying and sweating. His/Her heart rate is above \_\_\_\_\_ 15 breaths per minute.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6) Your horse seems anxious, sweating, trying to lay down and is biting at their flank.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7) It has been extremely hot and you just returned from a long trail ride. Your horse \_\_\_\_\_ seems stressed. You do a skin pinch test. The skin doesn't return to flat for over 4 \_\_\_\_\_ seconds. Horses pulse seems extremely fast.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8) Your mares new foals pulse rate is 80 beats per minute but is nursing normally.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9) Your older horse is losing weight and drinking much more then usual.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10) A young horse comes in from pasture with a large scrape on his hip. He is not \_\_\_\_\_ lame or have any swelling.

**Fill in the blank:**

Abnormal gum colors are red, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.

Temperatures over 103 degrees F indicate a \_\_\_\_\_ problem and your horse should be placed in a \_\_\_\_\_ area with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ off until the vet arrives.

You should call the vet if your horse has a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ nasal discharge.



# Why You Need a Horse Budget Worksheet

Let's be real: horses are majestic, but they aren't exactly known for their frugality. Between feed, veterinary visits, tack, stabling, and the occasional splurge on a custom saddle (because, hey, even horses deserve to ride in style), costs can add up faster than a galloping racehorse. Enter the horse budget worksheet, a tool that helps you track every penny and plan for both regular care and those pesky surprise bills.

Think of it as your financial blueprint for maintaining a happy, healthy horse without the anxiety of an ever-empty bank account. A comprehensive budget worksheet allows you to see where every dollar is going, anticipate future expenses, and even discover clever ways to save money while still giving your four-legged friend the best life possible. It's not just about crunching numbers; it's about creating a sustainable lifestyle that supports both you and your magnificent equine partner.

Whether you're new to the world of horse ownership or a seasoned rider looking to optimize your budget, a budget will equip you with the insights and practical steps you need to craft a worksheet that works as hard as your horse does.

The journey to mastering your horse care expenses starts with one simple tool, a well-crafted Horse Budget Worksheet. By taking the time to understand every cost, customize your financial tracking, and leverage digital tools, you're setting yourself up for a life where you can enjoy every ride without worrying about your budget.

Embrace the challenge with a sense of adventure, and remember that every great rider faces hurdles along the way. Whether you're optimizing your monthly spending, planning for seasonal costs, or preparing for unforeseen emergencies, the key is to stay proactive and adaptable.

Complete the attached Horse Budget Worksheet and fill in the sections with the costs of the expenses in the categories. You may need to ask for help from your parents, horse leader, trainer, barn owner, etc to complete the worksheet.

Do not leave anything blank. After completing the worksheet answer the questions below.

1. After learning the costs of owning horses, what surprised you most about the expenses??

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2. What ongoing horse expense do you think people underestimate the most?

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# BUDGET WORKSHEET FOR HORSE OWNERS

Budgeted Item	Price	Comments	Budgeted Item	Price	Comments
<b>BOARD</b>			<b>FARRIER</b>		
Full Board					
Partial Board					
Pasture Board			<b>EQUINE INSURANCE</b>		
<b>FEED</b>			<b>TRAINING</b>		
Feed			Training Fees		
Hay			Hauling Fees		
Suppliments					
Mineral Blocks					
			<b>LESSONS</b>		
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>					
Saddle					
Girth					
Pad					
Headstall			<b>SHOWING AND COMPETITION</b>		
Bit			Entry Fees		
Reins			Stall Fees		
Halter			Hookup		
Lead Rope			Hotel		
Blankets			Food		
<b>SUPPLIES</b>			<b>TRUCK AND TRAILER</b>		
Grooming Supplies			Truck payment		
First Aid Supplies			Trailer payment		
Barn Supplies			Fuel		
			<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
<b>HEALTH</b>					
Vet					
Dentist					
Vaccinations					
Wormer					
Coggins					

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Date Finished \_\_\_\_\_