

10995 St Rt 128  
 Harrison, OH 45030  
 Phone #: 513-715-2600  
 info@miamitownequine.com  
 miamitownequine.com



Anna Hood, DVM, CVMM  
 Jamie Nickels, DVM

### Emergency/Urgent Care Guide

<p><b>Emergency Care</b>  <u>Call right away</u>; immediate veterinary attention needed.</p> 	<p><b>Urgent Care</b>  <u>Call right away</u>; we will determine emergency vs urgent care.</p> 	<p><b>Non-Emergent</b>            Call during the next business day; we will determine the urgency of the issue.</p> 
<p><b>Colic</b>            Excessive rolling, pawing, kicking at belly, not eating</p>	<p><b>Fever &gt;101.5°F</b>            (99-101.5°F is normal)</p>	<p><b>Weight Loss</b>            Decreased body condition or muscle mass</p>
<p><b>Down Horse</b>            Unable to rise or cast/stuck</p>	<p><b>Lameness</b>            Non-weight bearing or “<i>toe touching</i>”, or reluctant to move</p>	<p><b>Lameness</b>            Able to bear weight and walk without difficulty</p>
<p><b>Choke</b>            Feed material &amp; saliva coming out of nose/mouth, coughing or “retching”</p>	<p><b>Eye Issues</b>            Squinting, tearing, swelling, abnormal or cloudy appearance</p>	<p><b>Dental Issues</b>            Dropping feed, chewing sideways, quidding hay</p>
<p><b>Laceration</b>            Do not apply any creams, ointments, or sprays before calling</p>	<p><b>Nasal Discharge</b>            Clear, white, yellow, or green</p>	<p><b>Excessive Drooling</b>            Eating &amp; acting normally            Usually due to ingestion of clover</p>
<p><b>Respiratory Distress</b>            Trouble breathing, flared nostrils &amp; increased abdominal effort</p>	<p><b>Asthma</b>            Dry cough &amp; abdominal effort while breathing</p>	<p><b>Mild Occasional Cough</b>            No nasal discharge, fever, or increased breathing effort</p>
<p><b>Dystocia (Difficult birth)</b>            Foal not on ground 30m after water breaking or incorrect presentation</p>	<p><b>Cellulitis</b>            Lower limb swelling &amp; lameness</p>	<p><b>Skin Issues</b>            Bug bite reaction or detection of a mass or lump</p>
<p><b>Nail in Hoof</b>            Do not pull out!</p>	<p><b>Decreased Appetite or Lethargy</b>            Not finishing hay or grain meals, or acting tired</p>	<p><b>Metabolic Issues</b>            Development of cresty neck and fat pads</p>
<p><b>Collapse or Loss of Coordination</b>            Muscle tremors, sweating, stiffness, weakness, “<i>acting drunk</i>”</p>	<p><b>Diarrhea</b>            This condition can be fatal in horses and dehydration can happen rapidly.</p>	<p><b>Fecal Water Syndrome</b>            Normal manure with a small amount of liquid after</p>

**We provide emergency care 24/7/365 for our regular equine clients. Call 513-715-2600.**  
 If you do not hear back within 15 minutes, we may be dealing with another emergency – please call again.

## Vitals

<b>Normal Adult Equine</b>	
<b>Temperature</b>	99-101.5°F (Low temp 97-98° ok)
<b>Heart Rate</b>	28-44 beats per minute
<b>Respiration</b>	8-24 breaths per minute
<b>Mucous Membranes</b>	Moist and pink
<b>Capillary Refill Time</b>	2 seconds or less
<b>Gut Sounds</b>	Gurgling should be heard in all 4 abdominal quadrants

- To take your horse's temperature, first apply some lubricant or Vaseline to a digital thermometer, (We like the Vick's Speed Read 8 second) and give it a few seconds to fully turn on before inserting into the rectum. Tilt the thermometer so that it contacts the side of the rectal wall, because if the thermometer is in a ball of manure, you will get a falsely low reading.



- Heart rate can be taken by listening behind the left shoulder with a stethoscope or feeling the pulse under the jaw. If listening to the heart, "lub-dub" is one beat, not two.
- Respiration rate can be measured by watching the flank- once it moves in and out, that is one breath.
- To test mucous membranes & capillary refill time, lift the horse's upper lip and check gum color. They should be pink and moist- dry, pale, yellow, or purple gums are a major concern. Then, using your thumb, apply a few seconds of pressure to the gums above the incisor teeth. Release the pressure and count how many seconds it takes for the gums to return to pink; it should be less than 2 seconds. This is the capillary refill time.
- The equine gastrointestinal system is separated into 4 quadrants: upper left, lower left, upper right, & lower right. A healthy horse will have consistent rumblings in all 4 quadrants. If you listen with a stethoscope for 30 seconds each, you should hear a few rumbles in each quadrant.