



Determining Your Horses Body Weight

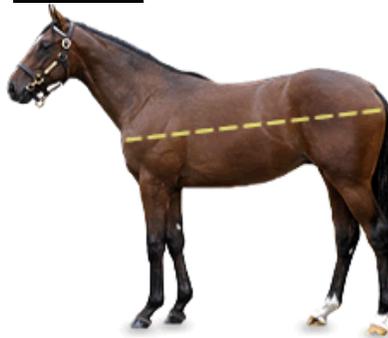
The most accurate way to determine a horse's weight is by weighing him on a scale. However, you can estimate a horse's weight (to calculate proper amounts of feed, dewormer, etc.) by using body measurements. Weight tapes use a horse's heart girth measurement alone, but using body length plus heart girth tends to be more accurate.

The following measurements and formula was published in 'Estimating Horse Body Weight with a Simple Formula', by PG Gibbs and DD Householder, at Texas A&M University.

Photo #1:



Photo #2:



Using a cloth, seamstress measuring tape, record the following measurements:

Photo #1: Measure around the girth, immediately behind the elbow and at the last mane hair on the withers.

Photo #2: Measure from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock (tuber ischii).

*Photos from the Univ. of Kentucky

FORMULA:

Heart Girth, in inches, (squared), times the horses Length, in inches, then divide that total by either 330, 320, 300 or 280 (see below) will equal your horses individual body weight.

- a) **Mature horses = divide by 330**
- b) **Two Year Olds = divide by 320**
- c) **Yearlings = divide by 300**
- d) **Weanlings = divide by 280**

EXAMPLES:

Heart Girth X Heart Girth X Length divided by a, b, c or d = Current Body Weight.

1) **Mature Horse** with a heart girth of 74 inches and length of 61 inches:

$$\underline{74} \times \underline{74} = 5011 \times \underline{61} = 334036, \text{ divided by } \underline{330} = \underline{1012 \text{ pounds}}$$

2) **Yearling** with a heart girth of 62 inches and length of 55 inches:

$$\underline{62} \times \underline{62} = 3844 \times \underline{55} = 211420, \text{ divided by } \underline{300} = \underline{705 \text{ pounds}}$$

Please Note: This Horse Weight Formula is intended for use only as a weight estimation tool. It does not consider the physical differences between individual horses. If an accurate weight for your horse is necessary, a scale must be used.