



WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY



A

Assess the Situation

Take a deep breath
What is the emergency?
Is there still danger?



C

Call for Help

Whose assistance is required?

- Emergency responders (fire, ambulance, police)
- Vet – Notify vet and describe vitals and injuries
- Assistant to help you handle the emergency
- Owner



T

Treat the Horse

If safe, assess the horse's vital signs
Administer first aid according to the vet's instructions
Call your vet if treatment is beyond your expertise
NEVER endanger yourself or your assistant in order to treat the horse



Vitals (at rest)	Normal*	Warning**	Dangerous**
Heart Rate	28-44/min	45-60/min	>60/min***
Respiratory Rate	10-14/min	25+/min	25+/min laboured
Temperature	<38.5°C/101.3°F	>38.7°C/101.5F	>40.5°C/105°F
Pinch Test	0-1.5 seconds	2-3 seconds	4+ seconds

* Source: Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines, 2013

** Source: Equine Guelph Horse Health Check

***Higher than normal heart rates should always be investigated. An elevated resting heart rate may indicate a problem. These values refer to resting, normal horses, and do not reflect a temporary rise in heart rate due to exercise or excitement.

This is an abbreviated list of emergency procedures intended to help you stay efficient during an emergency. It is not a substitute for first aid or preparedness training.