

EMERGENCY HORSE CARE: VIRGINIA EQUINE 804-784-5419

LACERATIONS

CLINICAL SIGNS:

Is it significant bleeding? Call immediately if over a joint, tendon, or involving the eyelid. Did you see it happen? How did it happen? Is the wound clean or dirty? Is the area around the cut swollen? What can you see inside the cut? How big is the laceration?

WHAT TO DO:

CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN
Cold hosing to clean if OK with vet. Do not apply any topical medications until a veterinary consult. If bleeding, apply pressure over the wound with a clean quilt/towel/cloth and hold in place with a polo wrap or vet wrap. Do not remove the bandage until the vet arrives. Check tetanus vaccination history.

COLIC SIGNS

CLINICAL SIGNS:

Pawing the ground, look at belly, stretch as if urinating, curl the upper lip, sweat, breathe hard or fast, lie down, roll, anxious, depressed/not eating, thrash

WHAT TO DO:

Take vitals, listen for abdominal sounds, walk the horse in an open area, remove food, watch for passing of gas and manure, CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

NOT EATING

CLINICAL SIGNS:

Horse may pick at feed, eat hay but not grain, take a mouthful of feed but not chew, be drooling, or have foul mouth odor

WHAT TO DO:

Take temperature, look for manure in the stall, evaluate consistency of feces, remove food, watch for colic signs, check water consumption and CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

ASSESS YOUR HORSE'S CONDITION

Give *detailed* information to your vet,

NORMAL VITAL SIGNS:

TEMPERATURE:

98* - 101.5* ADULT HORSE
99* - 102.5* FOAL

HEART RATE:

30-44 BEATS/MIN ADULT
60-100 BEATS/MIN FOAL

RESPIRATION:

8-16 BREATHS/MIN ADULT
20-40 BREATHS/MIN FOAL

SUDDEN LAMENESS

CLINICAL SIGNS:

Horse cannot bear weight or is noticeably lame on one or more legs

Horse is unwilling to move

Horse appears very tenderfooted

Horse has a recent history of vaccination or intramuscular drug administration

WHAT TO DO:

Do not move the horse
Look for obvious heat/swelling in affected leg, compare to normal leg
Clean the foot, look for nails or other foreign objects. If you find a nail, do not remove it
CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

NASAL DISCHARGE

CLINICAL SIGNS

Horse may have blood, pus, feed material or saliva coming from one or both nostrils

Horse may also be coughing
Horse may be anxious and throwing its head

WHAT TO DO:

Take Temperature
Feel throat latch area and under the jaw for swelling and tenderness
Remove food if showing signs of distress
Keep horse as calm as possible
If the discharge is yellow, quarantine the affected horse from others and do not touch other horses until the affected horse is evaluated
CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

ALLERGIC REACTION

CLINICAL SIGNS

May occur after recent vaccination, deworming or drug administration

May occur following snake or insect bites

Horse may have hives or swelling at the injection or bite site

Horse may become very stiff, unwilling to move

Muzzle, eyelid, sheath or throat swelling

WHAT TO DO:

Call the vet ASAP especially if breathing is a problem

Cold bath for hives or local swelling, or move to cool location

Remove food and CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

SWOLLEN EYE

CLINICAL SIGNS

Upper and/or lower eyelids may be swollen

Horse may squint in sunlight or appear to be in pain

The eye may appear cloudy, have tears or discharge

The horse may appear blind

WHAT TO DO:

Remove from bright sunlight

Apply cold compress

CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

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SUDDEN LEG SWELLING

CLINICAL SIGNS:

One (or more) legs swollen
Horse may or may not be lame
Horse may be off feed
Compare to normal leg

WHAT TO DO:

Take temperature
Look for scabs/cuts on the
swollen leg
Do not move the horse if
severely lame
Cold hose the leg and apply a
standing wrap
CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

HORSE'S BARN NAME: _____

REGISTERED NAME: _____

AGE, COLOR, GENDER: _____

HORSE'S LOCATION: _____

BARN MANAGER, BARN PHONE: _____

OWNER'S NAME AND PHONE: _____

EQUINE INSURANCE COMPANY/policy#: _____

INSURANCE EMERGENCY NUMBER: _____

REGULAR VET: _____

TRAINER'S NAME AND PHONE: _____

FARRIER'S NAME AND PHONE: _____

#VIRGINIAEQUINECARES