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Physical Examination Checklist

Appetite: +/+ +/- -/-
(may refuse hay and/or grain, but still be willing to graze)

Attitude: Normal Depressed Excited

Heart Rate: Listen with a stethoscope, or feel with hand, on chest wall, at left elbow; or feel pulse at jaw
Normal is about 40 or fewer beats per minute.

Temperature: Use digital or mercury thermometer. Normal range from about 98° on a cool morning to 101.5° on a hot afternoon.

Gut Sounds: Listen in flanks with stethoscope, or ear on skin.
Sounds should be obvious and continuous.

Gum Color: Should be pink and even; gums should be moist

Capillary Refill Time: Blanch color out with fingertip, and count seconds until return. Normal is 1 - 1.5 seconds.

Respiratory Rate: Normal is about 20 breaths per minute.

Digital Pulses: Can be felt at the back of fetlock and pastern, at the sides. Normal is very faint (most people can't feel at all in normal horses).