

Signs of Equine Emergency

Laminitis vs. Colic

Emergencies can arise with any animal, do you know the signs to look for in your horse that indicate it's time to call your vet?

Below is a list of common symptoms you may see with either laminitis or colic. Remember to call your veterinarian prior to any at-home treatments.

- Laminitis
- Colic
- Reluctant to move
- Sawhorse stance (leaning back with weight on hind legs, front legs straight out)
- Recent exposure to fast-growing grass (Spring and early Fall)
- Recent exposure to grain
- Lying down more
- Feet feel hot
- It is EXTREMELY important NOT to walk a horse with laminitis, it is a common misconception among equine owners that walking can help.
- Lying down more
- Tail swishing
- Looking or kicking at the abdomen
- Grinding teeth
- No defecation noted
- Off feed
- Depressed or highly agitated
- Sweating
- Elevated heart rate (normal is 30 beats per minute)
- Elevated respiratory rate (normal is 12 breaths per minute)
- It IS appropriate to walk a colic horse. We also recommend you have a stethoscope on hand to check heart rate effectively.