

Colic Symptom Checklist for Horses

Is your horse showing signs of colic? Clinical signs of a horse with mild colic include restlessness, sweating, pawing, looking at his sides, and/or lying down and rolling frequently. A horse with more severe colic will roll and may become cast and lie on his back to relieve pressure. Use veterinarian Barb Crabbe's checklist to track your horse's symptoms during the initial stages of colic, or until your vet arrives.

Keep a copy of this chart posted in the barn or laminate it and place it in your colic first-aid kit. Call your veterinarian if your horse exhibits two or more symptoms of moderate or severe colic—or if mild colic symptoms persist for more than 30 minutes.

VITAL SIGNS	<u>MILD</u>	<u>MODERATE</u>	<u>SEVERE</u>
Heart rate (beats per min.)	40 to 60	60 to 80	over 80
Respiratory rate (breaths per min.)	20 to 30	30 to 40	over 40
Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)	99 to 100.5	99 to 100.5	under 99/over 100.5
Gum color	pale pink	pale pink	bluish or purple
Capillary refill time	1 to 2 seconds	2 to 4 seconds	over 5 seconds
Gut sound	normal or increased	decreased frequency	absent
Feces	normal	small, hard fecal balls	none or profuse diarrhea
Passing gas	yes	no	no
Pain level	sweating, intermittent pawing/looking at belly/lifting hind leg/stretching	same as mild but continuous plus may try to roll	all other signs plus uncontrollable, continuous attempts to roll/thrash

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For more information on colic, visit www.EquiSearch.com