

Are you ready to **REACT** to colic?

Noticing small changes in your horse's behaviour and having a plan in place will allow you to REACT quickly to colic. Be aware of the signs below and contact your vet if you're concerned.



Restless



- Attempting to lie down
- Repeatedly rolling
- Unexplained sweating
- Agitated, pacing or circling

Eating less and droppings reduced



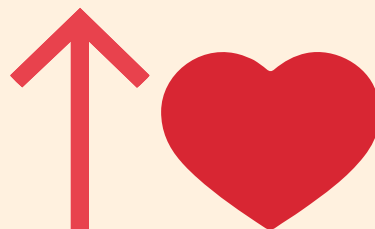
- Reduced appetite or not eating
- Passing less or no droppings
- Changes in consistency of droppings

Abdominal pain



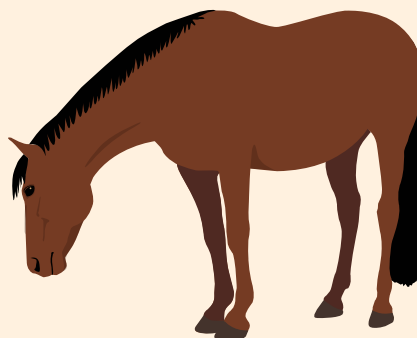
- Looking at their flanks
- Pawing the ground
- Kicking at their belly

Clinical changes



- Increased heart rate
- Rapid breathing rate
- Reduced or absent gut sounds
- A change in colour of the gums
- Cuts and grazes over the eye area

Tired



- Lying down more
- Lowered head position
- Withdrawn
- Dull and depressed

Make sure you're ready to **REACT**

Recognising colic early and acting quickly will help your horse get pain relief and treatment as soon as possible and give them the best chance for recovery.

Waiting for your vet

Remember: horses in pain may behave unpredictably. Wear a hat and gloves and if it's unsafe don't attempt to handle your horse - wait for your vet.

- **Location:** share your live location with your vet or use what3words
- **Suitable area:** keep your horse in a safe place and remove any hazards such as haynets and buckets
- **Follow your vet's guidance:** they'll advise you whether to walk your horse. If they're reluctant, don't force them
- **Allow them to lie down or roll;** this won't worsen colic
- **Be prepared:** check your emergency care plan and be ready to transport your horse if needed.



Be ready to REACT to colic -
download your
emergency care plan here:



bhs.org.uk/ecp

Do you have an emergency care plan?

Time is of the essence in emergencies. Making decisions while emotions are high can be incredibly hard. With colic, any delay could affect the outcome for your horse.

Our emergency care plan helps you think ahead and makes sure your wishes are known if you can't be contacted.

Keep your plan at the yard where it's easy to access. It includes all the information needed in an emergency.



Typical temperature

37.5-38.5°C or
99.5-101.3°F



Typical heart (pulse) rate

28-44 beats per minute



Typical respiratory (breathing) rate

8-16 breaths per minute

What's normal for your horse?

Take their temperature, pulse and respiration rates (TPR) regularly to see what's normal. If they're raised this can help you recognise problems early.

**If you're worried, contact your vet immediately.
Don't attempt to take your horse's TPR if it's unsafe to do so.**

