



Signs of Respiratory Trouble

Indicators of respiratory problems range from being very subtle to extremely severe coughing indicates a respiratory irritation that may be caused by an environmental allergen such as dust, a mild cold, or a viral contagion that is inflaming the lungs. Other indicators of pulmonary illness can include:

- Yellow or thick nasal discharge (a clear fluid nasal discharge is most likely normal)
- Shortness of breath
- Low energy level
- Labored breathing
- Wheezing, raspy or congested breathing
- Heaving chest
- Flared nostrils
- Swollen lymph nodes under the jaw
- Elevated body temperature

Management Suggestions

Clean Air

- Offer ample turnout
- Groom outside
- Use dust-free bedding
- Exercise or train in a dust-free environment
- Provide good ventilation in any enclosure
- Muck stable when horse is not present
- Check for mold, fungi, ammonia, or other toxins

Feed

- Feed at ground level (grazing posture)
- Store feed in a dry, protected enclosure
- Shake out hay, use dust-free hay or dust-free alternative feed
- Soak hay (though remember that soaking removes nutrients)
- Check feed for mold, fungi, and toxins

Exposure

- Isolate when horse exhibits signs of respiratory issues
- Maintain separate feeding, grooming and cleaning equipment
- Monitor horse's temperature and other signs
- Reduce horse's activity
- Observe other horses in the facility