

ANIMAL HEALTH CHECKS: EQUINE



Quality health checks are the first line of defense for protecting humans and animals from contagious diseases at fairs and other animal events. Use this checklist to confirm that animals participating in an agricultural fair or event are visibly healthy. Health checks should be completed inside the trailer or right outside; do not permit the animal to walk through the fairgrounds, barns or event before confirming its health status. Use gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate. Disinfect footwear between assessments on animals not housed together. Change your clothes after completing the animal assessments. Wipe down any equipment like flashlights or radios between herds. Certain conditions and observations noted within this checklist may not pose a significant public or animal health risk. In such cases, decisions regarding an animal's eligibility for exhibition should be made in consultation with event leadership and/or the on-call veterinarian. Follow any additional policies provided by event leadership and your state's Department of Agriculture.

Identification

- ☐ Official USDA identification (microchip, lip tattoo, valid Coggins paperwork)
- ☐ Pulling horses/pony competitors require a microchip
- ☐ Certificate of Veterinary Inspection
- ☐ Proof of current rabies vaccination
- ☐ Negative Coggins conducted within last **12 months**

General Body

- ☐ Bright, alert, and responsive
- ☐ No signs of pain or discomfort
- ☐ No indication of broken bones or injuries
- ☐ No obvious wounds
- ☐ Normal gait and mental activity

Nose, Eyes, and Mouth

- ☐ Bright and clear eyes without signs of injury, redness, swelling, or excessive discharge
- ☐ No excessive or unusual discharge from nose (i.e., blood, pus)
- ☐ No sneezing or coughing
- ☐ No abnormal respiration rates or efforts
- ☐ No indication of ulcers or injury of the mouth

Skin

- ☐ No missing patches of hair, redness or discoloration, scaling, or bumps
- ☐ No swellings, scabs, or draining tracts in the throat latch area

Rear End

- ☐ No diarrhea
- ☐ No unusual vaginal discharge

Hooves and Legs

- ☐ No signs of lameness (i.e., a head nod when in motion, repetitively shifting weight)
- ☐ Well maintained hooves
- ☐ If shod, shoes in good condition



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Rear End:

No diarrhea or unusual vaginal discharge.

Skin:

No missing patches of hair, redness, discoloration, scaling, bumps; free from swelling, scabs, or training tracts in the throat area.

Identification:

Official USDA identification (microchip, lip tattoo, valid Coggins paperwork); Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, proof of rabies vaccination, and negative Coggins from last 12 months present.

Nose, Eyes, and Mouth:

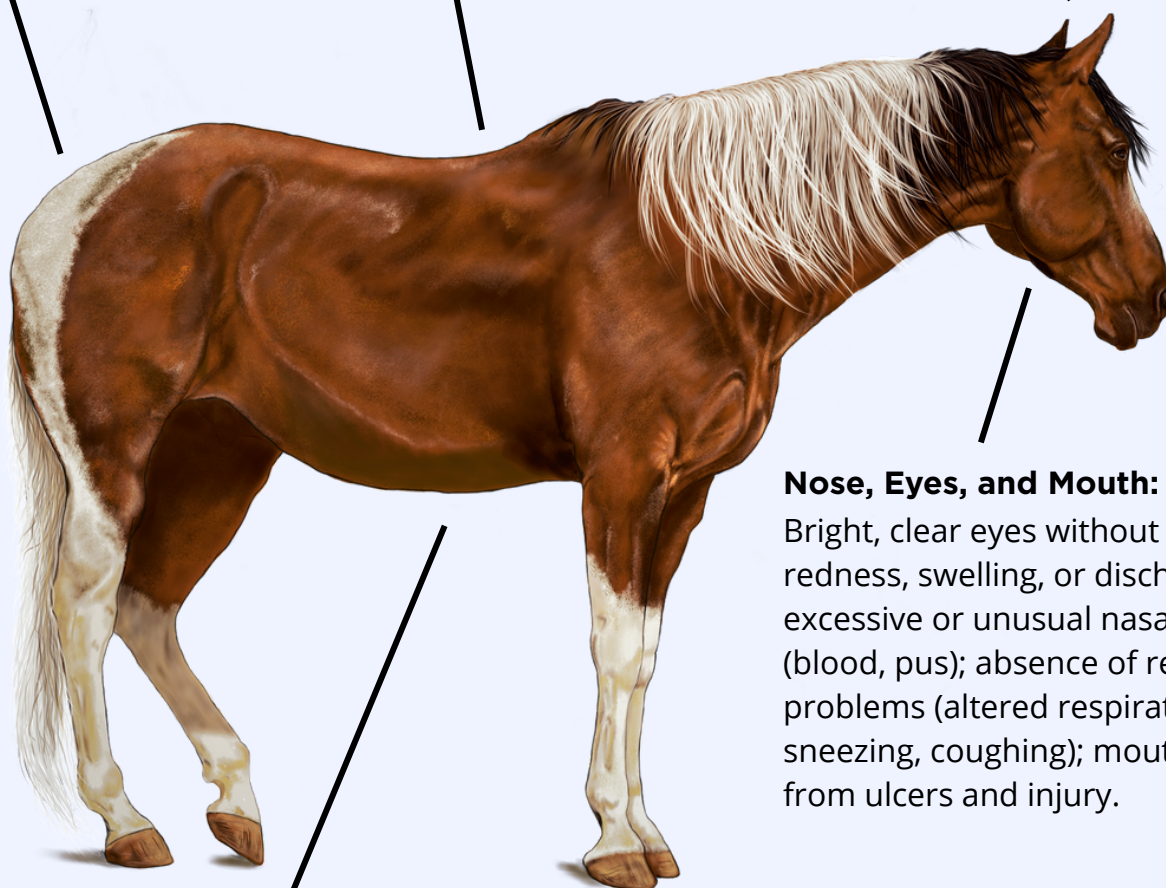
Bright, clear eyes without injury, redness, swelling, or discharge; no excessive or unusual nasal discharge (blood, pus); absence of respiratory problems (altered respiratory rate, sneezing, coughing); mouth is free from ulcers and injury.

General Body:

Bright, alert, responsive; no signs of pain, discomfort, wounds, broken bones, or injuries; normal gait and mentation.

Hooves and Legs:

Well maintained hooves; no signs of lameness (head nod when in motion, repetitive weight shifting); if shod, shoes in good condition.



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