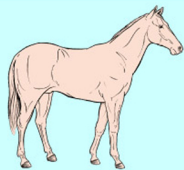
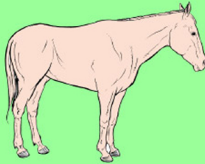
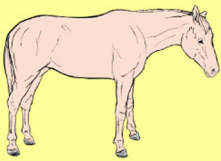
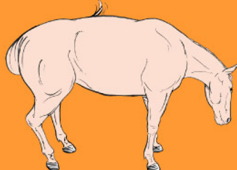
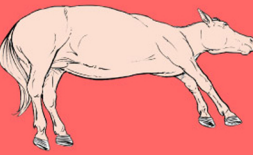


# How We Assess Your Horse's Pain Level

The Anesthesia and Pain Management team tailors all of their anesthesia and pain management services to the individual needs of your animal, and use the following scale to score the level of your horse's pain. This score helps us determine how to best make your horse's experience the most comfortable possible.

Pain Score	Behavior	Clinical Assessment	Postural Features
<b>0</b>	 <p>Responds with interest to gate opening, approach by observer                      Takes care in movements around people                      Head above withers                      Attentive                      Moving freely, calmly                      Resting comfortably</p>	<p>HR: _____ (usually <math>\leq</math> 40 bpm)                      Eyes: relaxed, normally responsive                      Normal muscle tension                      No focal areas of heat                      Not averse to palpation</p>	<p>No lameness perceptible, bears weight equally                      Moves with ease of stride</p>
<b>1</b>	 <p>Head at or above withers                      Facing forward and watching                      Performs normal behaviors less frequently than expected                      Responds with quiet interest to gate opening, approach by observer                      Takes care in movements around people</p>	<p>HR: _____ (may be <math>\leq</math> 40 bpm)                      Mild muscle tension                      Mild focal areas of heat                      Slightly steps, leans or pulls away from palpation, +/- muscle twitching</p>	<p>Lameness difficult to observe, inconsistently apparent                      Mild injury or stiffness in movement</p>
<b>2</b>	 <p>Head level with withers                      Moving slowly about with bedding undisturbed                      Mild but more frequent restlessness                      Responds to approach                      Less enthusiastic, less interested, less interactive                      Less careful about movements around people</p>	<p>HR: _____ (may be <math>\geq</math> 48 bpm)                      Tachypnea +/- RR: _____                      Moderate muscle tension                      Increasing areas of heat                      More averse to palpation</p>	<p>Lameness apparent only under certain circumstances, favors leg(s) occasionally                      Obvious stiffness in movement</p>
<b>3</b>	 <p>Head level or below withers                      May face back or corner of stall                      More vigorous signs of restlessness                      Eyes distracted, far away, weary                      Minimally reacts to interaction                      Stands in one position                      Beginning to become internalized                      Less careful about movements around people</p>	<p>HR: _____ (may be <math>\geq</math> 60 bpm)                      Tachypnea +/- RR: _____                      Sweating                      Severe muscle tension                      Widespread areas of heat                      Vigorously aversive response to palpation</p>	<p>Moderate lameness, able to bear weight but clearly favors one or more limbs                      Obvious discomfort, weight shifting                      Arched back                      Very stiff movements                      Abnormal standing posture</p>
<b>4</b>	 <p>Head often below withers                      Stands in corner or faces wall                      Ears back, eyes weary                      Frequent signs of severe agitation                      Extremely uncomfortable, panicky                      OR                      Extremely internalized/withdrawn                      Unwilling to rise                      Careless about movements around people</p>	<p>HR: _____ (may be <math>\geq</math> 70 bpm)                      Tachypnea +/- RR: _____                      Profuse sweating                      Extreme muscle tension / rigidity +/- fasciculation                      Widespread areas of heat                      Extremely averse to palpation                      Possibly aggressive</p>	<p>Unable or unwilling to bear weight                      May not be able to move                      Constant shifting of weight                      Very abnormal standing posture                      OR                      In sternal or lateral recumbency</p>

## List of Behavioral Descriptors

### General

- Pawing
- Stamping
- Tail switching w/o insects or other stimulus
- Circling in stall
- Flaring nostrils frequently
- Frequent head shaking w/o obvious reason
- Repetitive behaviors: Examples can include rubbing, pacing
- Getting up and laying down frequently
- Rocking to and fro on limbs
- Grunting
- Difficult to get settled down

### Musculoskeletal-specific

- Frequent weight shifting
- Rocking to and fro on limbs
- "Grimacing" (assoc. w/ laminitis)
- Stamping
- Frequent weight shifting

### Abdomen-specific

- Rolling on ground
- Pawing
- Flank watching
- Flank biting
- Teeth grinding
- Kicking at abdomen
- Grunting
- Thrashing

### Palpation Reactions

- Averse reaction to palpation may manifest as:
- Splinting
  - Muscle twitching
  - Biting
  - Striking
  - Kicking
  - Hyperalgesia