

The Emergency Kit

-You should have an emergency kit in your trailer and in your barn in easy to reach locations.

-Never ever "borrow" or remove items from your kit. I speak from experience when I say it's very easy to forget to replace items and then when you need it YOU NEED IT and it's not there-an emergency in and of itself.

- 1) Pick out a tough waterproof container-I like the Rubbermaid Roughneck containers available at Wal-Mart.
- 2) Tape an index card inside the lid and on the card put your vet's number, the ASPCA poison control center number 1-888-426-4435, the number of a hauler if you do not have a trailer (Wes Lawson, a professional hauler in Olive Branch does an excellent job for many of our clients), and a couple of horse friends' numbers. This way all your emergency contacts are within easy reach.
- 3) A digital thermometer-a human one at Kroger, Walgreen's etc. works great (average temp should be 99-101) and take temperatures rectally.
- 4) A stethoscope so you can get a heart rate (range is 28 to 42, with elderly horses at the higher end) and listen for gut sounds.

If you would like to learn how to get a heart rate and listen to gut sounds please do not hesitate to ask us the next time we are at your farm. We are happy to show you!

- 5) Bandage supplies-a few rolls of vetrap, No Bow bandages (Doversaddlery.com has great ones and I've also had good luck with the ones I've bought at Collierville Saddlery) disposable diapers for wrapping a hoof and duct tape for going over the diaper. Please ask us if you would like to learn how to bandage.
- 6) Cleaning supplies-a bag of cotton balls or gauze pads, old washcloths and Betadine for cleaning out wounds.
- 7) An extra halter and lead rope.
- 8) A head lamp. You can't have too many of these! I get mine at Sierratradingpost.com. This allows your hands to be free instead of holding a flashlight.
- 9) Pen and notepad so you can write down vital signs (temp, heart rate, respiratory rate) and take notes while we talk over the phone during an emergency.
- 10) Medications-these can include Bute paste and a syringe of Banamine. Remember that injectable Banamine can be squirted into your horse's mouth making administration extremely easy.

If you have any questions about setting up your emergency kit please call us and we will be happy to help!

