

Caring for Horses During Hot Weather



Acclimate horses to hot climates over a period of **15-21 days**

Always provide **shade** and **airflow** (fans)



Feed **electrolytes** alongside **fresh water**



Sweating = natural cooling

Overheating can result from:

- hot weather
- humidity
- poor ventilation
- prolonged exposure to direct sunlight
- excessive work
- transportation
- obesity

Turnout and ride at night to avoid high daytime temperatures and direct sunlight



Clip horses with especially **thick coats** or those who cannot shed naturally



Horse cooling efficiency ↓ as heat index ↑

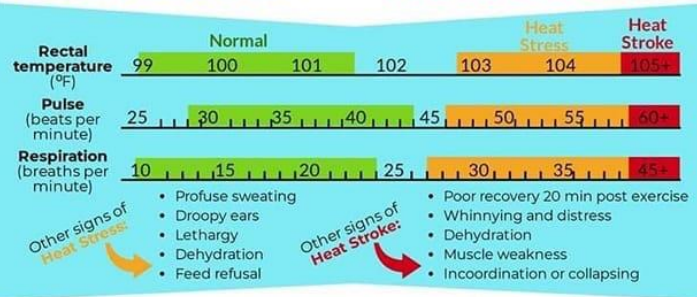
Heat index = air temperature (°F) + relative humidity (%)

Heat Index	Horse Cooling Efficiency
< 130	Most effective
131-150	Decreased
151-180	Greatly reduced
181+	May be fatal if stressed

Free choice access to clean and cool **water**

Exposure to heat can also cause **muscle spasms** and **colic**

Heat Stress vs. Heat Stroke



Contact your vet **IMMEDIATELY** if... your horse is **not able to sweat** or you think your horse is suffering from **heat stroke**

Rapidly cool a horse by **continuously applying water** or **wetting skin surface** and immediately **removing** with sweat scraper



Focus water on **head, neck, back, ribs and legs**

Repeat **until cooled**

Add ice to water if **rectal temp >105°F**

Don't apply ice water to hind end

Mosquito activity increases in hot weather and areas with standing water sources



West Nile Virus and **Potomac Horse Fever** are spread by mosquitoes

Prevent disease by:

- Eliminating standing water
- Avoid turnout at dawn and dusk
- Ensure horses are up to date on WNV and PHF vaccines

