

Scoring Pain in Horses^{*}

The following table provides a guideline to indicate the severity of pain in the horse based on the most common signs of pain. Zero equals no pain.

Score	1	2	3	4
Gross pain behavior ^a	None		Occasional	Continuous
Head position	Above withers		At withers	Below withers
Ear position	Forward, frequent movement		Slightly back, little movement	
Movement/response to approach	Moves freely/moves to observer	Occasional steps/looks at observer with ears forward		No movement ears back
Lifting feet	Freely lifts feet when asked	Lifts feet after mild encouragement		Extremely unwilling to lift feet

^aPawing, sweating, looking at the flank, flehmen, lying down and standing repeatedly (as observed during colic).

*adapted by Tomas Gimenez from: Sanchez, C. Pain models and scoring and pain management in horses. The Practitioner 2011(5):6