

HOW TO:

FEEL A DIGITAL PULSE



Why feel your horses digital pulses?

1. Gives you an indication of what is normal for your horse
2. Allows you to tell if there is an increased pulse
3. An increased pulse commonly indicates soreness/inflammation within the hoof



Step 1: Identify the landmarks on the leg



Step 2: Feel the bundle of vessels running down either side of the leg



Step 3: Apply light pressure to the artery and assess strength of pulse with your index finger

Note: The bundle can be felt in multiple areas above and below the fetlock

Normal Digital Pulse



A normal digital pulse is difficult to palpate as it represents the normal blood flow to the hoof

Increased Digital Pulse



An increased digital pulse indicates increased blood flow to the distal limb (hoof). This is known as "bounding" pulses.

Some common causes of increased digital pulses include:

- Laminitis
- Hoof abscesses