

Normal Physiological Values for Select Animals

During catastrophic events, animals frequently are separated from their owners. These animals have been stressed and may become ill. A list of normal temperatures, heart rates, and respiratory rates is provided in the following table. This minimal health information will allow volunteers and surrogate care givers to perform a minimal physical examination when a veterinarian isn't available.

Species	Temperature		Heart Rate (Beats/Minute)		Respiratory Rate (Breaths/Minute)
	°F ± 1°F	°C ± 0.5°C	Average	Range	
Beef Cow	101	38.3		60-70	30
Dairy Cow	101.5	38.6		60-70	30
Goat	102.3	39.1	90	70-135	12-20
Horse	100	37.8	44	23-70	12
Pig	102.5	39.2		55-86	8-18
Sheep	102.3	39.1	75	60-120	19
Rabbit	103.1	39.5	205	123-304	39
Dog	102	38.9		100-130	22
Cat	101.5	38.6	120	110-140	26

When conducting the minimal physical examination, realize that some animals won't be used to being handled and might have elevated heart rates and respiratory rates just from being handled. Also, if the animals are being housed in warm, humid environments, there could be some variations. For example, the temperature for dairy cows may be elevated to 102.5 °F on a summer afternoon when they are experiencing heat stress.

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