





**Pain ethogram checklist  
for your horse**

Does your horse exhibit these traits?

yes no

**Eye expressions:**

- glazed (intense stare)
- eyes partially closed
- eye sclera visible

**Mouth position:**

- mouth and lips closed
- lips drawn back exposing closed teeth
- open mouth but teeth together
- open mouth and teeth apart

Mouth: jaw crossed

**Tongue position:**

- tongue in
- tongue lolling tip
- tongue lolling large part

**Tail carriage:**

- no swishing but moving in rhythmic swinging movement with horse's movement
- tail clamped: minimal movement or rhythmic swinging movement with horse's movement
- tail straight or tail to one side

**Rhythm:**

- normal
- slow
- hurried

Change of rhythm in 10-meter circle versus 20 m circle/going large (change of frequency of steps within finite time)

**10 - meter circle observations:**

- alteration of head posture
- alteration of ears
- change in eyes

**Straightness:**

- straight
- crooked



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**Consistency of trot:**

- maintains trot
- breaks to walk
- breaks to canter

**Consistency of canter:**

- difficulty in establishing canter
- spontaneously breaking to trot

**Canter:**

- changing legs behind, becoming and remaining disunited (cross-cantering)
- changing legs behind repeatedly (i.e., true canter - disunited - true canter)
- tubera sacral higher than withers
- loss of 3-beat rhythm; lack of suspension phase
- changing legs in front and not behind

**Straightness of canter:**

- hind limbs in track of forelimbs
- canter crooked - inside hind limb on different track to inside forelimb

**Willingness to go:**

- willing (no kicking, no verbal encouragement, and no use of the whip)
- unwilling (has to be kicked, hit with whip and/or verbally encouraged)

# of times for each circumstance

**Resistances:**

- stops spontaneously
- more than 3 forward cues given before horse moves forward
- horse does not move forward

**Spookiness:**

- looking at objects
- jump stands in corner and avoids object by coming off track
- no longer going around perimeter of arena
- veering off prescribed path
- resistance to follow directed path
- evasions to specific cues from rider
- real or perceived external trigger overriding rider's cues



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### Pain ethogram checklist for your horse

Does your  
horse exhibit  
these traits?

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**Bucking (both hind limbs raised off ground)**

single bucks

repeated bucks

height of hind limbs relative to hindquarters

buck and spin

Rearing

Salivation (for period assessed)

**Transitions:**

constant head and neck position

above the bit in transition

jumps in upwards transition

tail swishing

**Stumbling:**

in front

behind

**Bit position:**

central

pulled to one side