

When should you call your veterinarian?

According to the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the following situations are serious enough that a veterinarian should be called immediately:

- Any uncontrolled bleeding
- Foreign objects protruding from the body (don't remove them!)
- Lacerations
- Injury to the eye or eyelids
- Aggressive or unusual behavior
- Neurological signs (tripping, walking into objects)
- Lameness
- Mares which are actively in labor for more than 20 minutes without progress
- Difficulty breathing
- Multiple animals getting sick at once
- Off feed
- Signs of abdominal discomfort (colic)

In an emergency, time is critical. Acting quickly can minimize the consequences of injury or illness.

Common poisonous shrubs and trees

Often incorporated into landscapes for their aesthetic appeal, these plants pose a health hazard to horses who encounter them.

NAME (Scientific Name)	RANGE	DANGER	TOXICITY LEVEL	CLINICAL SIGNS
SHRUBS				
Azalea/laurel/rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.)	Throughout North America	All parts of plant	Moderate	Acute colic, diarrhea, excessive salivation, depression, incoordination, stupor, heart irregularity
Oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>)	Southern US	All parts of plant, fresh or dried	Very high	Colic, sweating, bloody diarrhea, difficult breathing, arrhythmia
Yellow Oleander (<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>)	Southern US	All parts of plant	Very high	Colic, sweating, bloody diarrhea, difficult breathing, arrhythmia, tetany
Yew	Throughout North America	All parts of plant	Very high	Heart irregularity, nervousness, difficult breathing, incoordination, convulsions, death
TREES				
Avocado (<i>Persea americana</i>)	Southern US	Fruit, seeds, leaves	Moderate	Diarrhea, colic, edema, noninfectious mastitis in lactating mares
Black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	Throughout North America; southern Canada	Bark and seeds, new growth is most toxic	Moderate	Diarrhea or constipation, appetite loss, stupor, laminitis
Black walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	Northeastern, central US	Wood shavings used as bedding	High	Edema in legs, increased heart/respiratory rates, increased temperature, laminitis
Chokecherry/wild black cherry (<i>Prunus</i> spp.)	Throughout North America	Very young or wilted leaves, if eaten in large quantities	Low	Tremors, frequent urination/defecation, gasping/convulsions
Horse chestnut/buckeye (<i>Aesculus</i> spp.)	Eastern, southern US	Sprouts, leaves, seeds	Moderate	Muscle tremors, incoordination
Oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)	Throughout North America	Young leaves, acorns, bark	Variable	Colic, constipation followed by bloody diarrhea, frequent urination, kidney failure
Red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	Eastern half of US	Wilted or dry leaves, bark	High	Dark/discolored mucous membranes, brown/red urine, depression, colic