Common Mistakes When Monitoring Vital Signs

- Not leaving the thermometer in long enough (false low temperature reading)
- Taking vital signs on a nervous horse (horses' pulse and respiration rates can increase dramatically if they are nervous)
- Allowing the horse to sniff your hand to measure respiration rate (they will sniff far more quickly than their regular breathing rates)
- Double-counting heartbeats (lub-dub=one beat)
- Not regularly practicing on your horse to know what is normal!