



Weighing Your Horse without a Scale

Knowing your horses' weight is important for such tasks as determining feeding rates, deworming, and dosage of other medications. Few people have access to a scale, and the typical heartgirth weight tape can easily be off by up to 150 pounds or more. Here is a simple formula involving two measurements on the horse, taken in inches, which can be used to generate a very accurate weight predication.

$(\text{Heartgirth} \times \text{heartgirth} \times \text{body length}) / 330 = \text{Weight}$

The number "330" is a constant value that is used for mature horses. Should you be measuring a yearling, use the number "301" in place of the "330", and if you are measuring a weanling, use "280" as your constant value.

Body length will take two people to measure, and it is important to consider the disposition of the horse you are trying to measure so no one gets hurt. This measurement is taken from the point of the shoulder (run your hand down the angle of the shoulder and feel for the end of the scapula bone), straight along the horse's side, and to the point of the buttock as shown in the picture. The horse must be standing squarely for this measurement to be accurate.

Heartgirth is taken in the same manner as the traditional weight tape, using the highest part of the withers and keeping the tape as close behind the elbow as possible.

Measurements to compare an individual horses' weight should be taken at the same time of the day, preferably prior to morning feeding and watering for the most accurate readings.

