



The Home of Horse Welfare

APG ThermoScan® Animal Thermometer User Notes

The readings on the APG ThermoScan® are taken from the surface of the animal's skin (at the point where the laser dot is) but the purpose of the instrument is **not** to indicate a specific temperature but, in moving over the surface, to identify areas where there are significant temperature variations.

In fact, the readings on the instrument should *not* be seen as degrees (Fahrenheit or Celsius) at all but rather as “**temperature units**”. The instrument is calibrated in small “temperature units” so that even small variations can be easily noted.

The operator is seeking any local *variation* in temperature - “peaks” of higher temperature can indicate abscesses (in the hoof), muscle strain in the leg or arthritis in the joints.

Similarly, points of temperature decrease compared with the surrounding areas can indicate restrictions of blood flow.

There is no “normal” surface temperature as such since it will depend on where the horse has been spending it's time: warm stable, frosty yard, hot sunny summer paddock.

The true advantage of the APG ThermoScan® is that it can quickly detect, very accurately, the precise point of a problem. The actual temperature is not necessarily significant.

As always, seek the advice of a veterinary professional for whom you can quickly identify the problem area and save time and fees!