

FOALING CARE

MARE:

- A. Vaccinations, deworming and supplements:
 - a. Rhino should be administered at months 5, 7 and 9
 - b. 4 way and West Nile should be administered at month 10
 - c. Deworm at month 10 with Ivermectin/Praziquantel
 - d. Continue Selenium supplementation 2mg per day
- B. Keep body and legs clean daily (foals try to suckle all over their bodies)
 - a. Clean the udder, vulva, and hindquarters with mild soap and water prior to foaling
- C. She may develop edema on her belly prior to foaling
- D. Items to keep on hand:
 - a. Tail wrap- wrap tail (not too tight) when labor begins
 - b. Nolvasan Solution (to dip umbilicus of baby)
 - c. Enema (for foal if needed)
- E. *Foaling should be completed by about 30 minutes of water breaking*
 - a. If this does not happen, **CALL THE VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!**
 - b. Normal presentation should have a grayish-pink bulge.
 - c. Watch closely for a “Red Bag” (when the placenta comes first, which is red), you may need to use a blade to cut the bag, **CALL IMMEDIATELY IF THIS OCCURS!**
 - d. Normal presentation: The foal’s hooves should be faced down with one a little ahead of the other, this is followed by the nose, neck, shoulders, and then the hindquarters
 - e. If you see the foal’s hooves facing upwards, call the veterinarian immediately.
 - f. If the umbilical cord does not break when the foal is delivered **DO NOT CUT IT!** Once the foal or mare gets up it will probably break the cord. If it does not then hold the cord firmly on either side and twist and pull the cord to separate. If the cord continues to bleed, put pressure on the stump with your finger and thumb and **CALL YOUR VET** for assistance.
- F. She may take up to 24 hours to defecate after foaling, as long as she is comfortable this is normal.
- G. Monitor the mare for colic or abnormal bleeding.

FOAL:

A. The 1, 2, 3 Rule:

- 1.) The foal should be standing in ONE hour from birth.
- 2.) The foal should be nursing in TWO hours from birth (note the time for the vet).
- 3.) The mare should pass the placenta in THREE hours from foaling (please keep in a dry sealed container to be reviewed by the veterinarian within 24 hours to make sure it is complete). If the placenta is hanging and it is close to the ground, then tie the placenta in a knot (to avoid her stepping on it and ripping it).

B. Umbilical care: Dip the umbilicus at birth with dilute chlorhexidine solution. Then dip regularly 4 times a day the first day then less frequently over the next few days.

C. Meconium: This is the first feces passed by the foal and should be passed within 12 hours and may be a black tar like substance. Please note and inform the veterinarian. (An enema may be needed).

D. IgG testing: This is a blood test that needs to be done at least 7 hours to 18 hours after first nursing to make sure the foal had obtained enough colostrum from the milk. This is also the time for the first neonatal health exam to check for other abnormalities.



Please call with any questions!
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