



Broodmare Care & Foaling Guide

BROODMARE CARE

1ST MONTH

DAY 14 – 17 VET SHOULD CONFIRM PREGNANCY AND RULE OUT TWINS

DAY 26 – 30 VET SHOULD RECONFIRM PREGNANCY, RULE OUT TWINS AND CHECK HEARTBEAT

- Check with vet before administering any vaccines or deworming products
- Do not let mare graze on endophyte-infected pastures (e.g. tall fescue)

An endophyte is a fungus that lives in certain types of plants, like tall fescue. Endophytes produce compounds that can cause problems for broodmares, including prolonged gestation, difficulty foaling, abortions, and no milk production.

3RD MONTH

DEWORM AFTER 60 DAYS OF PREGNANCY

5TH MONTH

- Nutritional needs start to rapidly increase from this point on. Consult veterinarian or an equine nutritionist to make sure mare is getting adequate nutrition
- Vet may recommend certain vaccines (e.g. EHV-1)
- Deworm

7TH & 9TH MONTH

EHV-1 BOOSTER

- Pull mare off any fields with fescue

10TH MONTH

VACCINATE FOR EHV-1/4, WNV, RABIES, AND POSSIBLY FLU

1 MONTH PRIOR TO DUE DATE

- Remove caslicks (if applicable)
- Deworm

Maintain hoof and dental care throughout pregnancy.

PREPARING FOR FOALING

- Mare will need a safe, clean, quiet place to foal
- Stalls should be 14" x 14" minimum
- Bedding may be a shavings base with thick wheat straw on top
- Have a clock or watch on hand to time each stage of labor and foal observations
- Take written notes
- Regularly wash the mare's hindquarters with mild soap and teats with water, starting 2 weeks before due date

SIGNS A MARE WILL FOAL SOON

- Udder can start to fill with milk 6-8 weeks before foal arrives
- Abdominal muscles relax, and belly may "drop" 2-3 weeks before
- Croup muscles may appear more relaxed 7-10 days before
- Wax (*a yellowish, honey-like secretion*) may develop on teats 1-2 days before
- Wax and/or milk may fall from teats within 24 hours of foaling. Call your vet if milk/colostrum drips for more than 24 hours with no foal

Testing a mare's milk with commercial test kits may help predict foaling. These kits usually analyze the milk's calcium and pH. A rise in calcium and drop in pH indicates foaling is near. Other predictive indicators and tests are available to help provide a more accurate estimate of the foaling window.

STAGES OF BIRTH

STAGE 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractions begin moving foal into position in birth canal• Mare may become anxious and restless, or appear to be colicky (<i>kick at her belly, sweat, pace, lie down and get back up or look or bit at her flanks</i>)• Fetal membranes may be visible at mare's vulva• When the sac/water breaks, stage one ends
STAGE 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The foal enters the world in a diving position with front feet first and hooves down and one slightly in front of the other
STAGE 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The afterbirth (<i>placenta</i>) is expelled

WHEN TO CALL THE VET

CALL YOUR VET IMMEDIATELY IF YOU SEE:

- Any lack of progress
 - Stage I - *If mare becomes anxious and restless, or appears to be colicky (kick at her belly, sweat, pace, lie down and get back up, look or bite at her flanks) for more than 2 hours*
 - Stage II *lasting longer than 30 minutes*
 - Stage III *lasting longer than 3 hours*
- A red bag instead of the pearly-white amnion
- Malpresentation of the foal (*e.g. only head, only membrane and no head or legs*)
- Rectal perforation (*foal hoof coming out of anus of mare*)
- Evidence of hemorrhage
- The mare expels only parts of the placenta or does not expel placenta after 3 hours
- Foal does not stand within 60 minutes post foaling
- Foal does not nurse within one hour post foaling

POST FOALING

- Save placenta for vet to examine and weigh
- Have vet exam mare and foal **within 24 hours** of foaling
- Test IgG in 1st **12-18 hours**
- Dip umbilicus BID in strong iodine for **2-3 days**
- Deworm mare **24-48 hours** after foaling
- Monitor nursing, passing of meconium, urination and conformation

FOALS 1ST YEAR

6-8 WEEKS	DEWORM FOR ASCARIDS; AND AGAIN 6-8 WEEKS LATER
5 MONTHS	VACCINATE FOR WNV, RABIES, EWT, EHV-1/4 & PHF
6 MONTHS	BOOSTER ALL VACCINES
9 MONTHS	BOOSTER VACCINES EWT, EHV-1/4 AND CAN ADD FLU IF NEEDED