

Foaling Kits

1. **Umbilical tape** - only used to tie around the umbilicus if it is bleeding or if the cord has not separated on its own
2. **Chlorhexidine navel dip** - immerse the entire umbilical stump in the solution, can be repeated twice daily for the first 2 days
3. **Large syringe with end cut off and reversed** - used for obtaining colostrums from the mare if necessary
4. **Small syringe or bottle with lamb's nipple** - used for administering colostrums to the foal if necessary
5. **Exam gloves** - to handle the placenta
6. **Brown gauze** - use to tie the placenta up so it is above the mare's hocks
7. **Large plastic bag with tie** - to put the placenta into for your veterinarian to evaluate at postpartum exam
8. **Antibiotics** - to be administered twice daily for 3 days
9. **Enema** - to be administered rectally if foal is straining to defecate

Other Recommended Items

1. Towels to dry the foal off
2. Clean containers to collect the colostrums
3. Bucket of warm water to clean mare's perineal area and hind legs



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Hours Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm | Saturday 8 am to 12 pm

These are the things you should have on hand in anticipation of your new foal:

1 Foaling Information

a. Early signs of Impending Parturition.

Normal gestation ranges from 320-370 days, with the average being 340 days. Watching the mares udder development and the changing color and consistency of her milk will help you determine where your mare may fit into the spectrum.

- Udder develops 2-4 weeks prior to due date.
- Teats fill 4-6 days before delivery
- Waxing appears 1-4 days before delivery
- Increased muscular relaxation of pelvic region around tail head and vulva
- Vulva lengthens 1-2 weeks before delivery
- Individual variability is very common

b. Labor and a Delivery.

Mares are normally very efficient with delivery, and equal as secretive.

If you are present at the foaling the sequence of events should be as follows:

Stage 1 positioning the foal

- Lasts 1-3 hours
- Characterized by restlessness, pacing, pawing, switching tail, frequent urination, getting up and down frequently, sweating.

Stage 2 Delivery

- Begins with breaking water
- Completed within 10-40 minutes
- Characterized by hard contractions and delivery of the foal in the following order - front feet, head and knees, shoulders, hips whole foal
- Normal presentation of foal is front feet presented with frogs down followed by the nose and head resting between the knees, foal should be upright with its spine towards the mares spine
- Following delivery, the mare may rest allow to lie quietly and undisturbed. Umbilical cord will rupture when mare rises or foal struggles.

Stage 3 Delivery of placenta

- Afterbirth (placenta) should be expelled within 3-4 hours after delivery of foal

DO NOT PULL

- Mare may show signs of mild abdominal pain and discomfort as uterus contracts and placenta is expelled

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Causes for concern and reasons to call your Veterinarian

1. If mare appears to require assistance or foal fails to make forward progress after 10 minutes of stage 2 labor call immediately. (Hook up trailer)
2. If you suspect any deviation from the normal foaling position or sequence of events. Example: If the feet are coming out frogs up. Call immediately
3. If you observe bleeding from mare at any stage of labor or delivery.
4. If the mare is dripping milk prior to the expected due date or for more than 24 hours without foaling
5. If your mare exhibits a noticeable vaginal discharge prior to due date
6. If the placenta is retained for more than 3-4 hours after delivery of foal

Bedding

If possible, the mare should foal on straw and the foal be bedded on straw the first week of life

Naval dip

To help prevent infection in the newborn, we advise dipping the umbilical stump as soon after the umbilical cord breaks as possible. Recent studies have shown that a one-part Chlorhexidine (Nolvasan) solution to four parts water is the most effective. You can get this solution from your veterinarian.

A good method to apply this is to fill a shot glass or syringe case with the solution, dip the stump in the case, then hold it tightly against the foal's abdomen for one minute,

Enema

Some foals suffer from a meconium impaction soon after birth, with stud colts being more susceptible. If the foal strains hard to defecate and is not productive, a single enema frequently alleviates this condition. If the foal is still in distress after receiving the enema, or if it is uncomfortable again in a twelve-hour span, it needs veterinary attention

Placenta

Bag or bucket to put the placenta in for veterinary examination

Digital thermometer

Normal foal temperature is 99-102 degrees

Neonatal Exam

Veterinary exam of mare and foal within 24 hours of birth

Schedule vaccination and deworming

Causes for concern with your foal

Depression and lack of appetite- usually the first indication of a problem. The best indication of not eating may be the mare's udder. Call immediately if you suspect that the foal is not nursing. Lameness may be due to trauma, but most likely an infection. Success depends on early treatment. Call immediately. Swollen umbilicus- call your veterinarian.

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