

Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital

Newsletter

Equine Edition

March 2009

You have been patiently awaiting the arrival of your new foal for a very long 11 months. You've given your mare the best possible care, but like most of us, you wonder if everything will be ok. No mare is totally predictable, but the normal foaling process will follow a sequence of events. Being familiar with the normal stages of foaling will enable you to recognize problems if they occur.

1. "Preparation" – This stage usually lasts 2-3 hours. The mare will be uneasy, and may show signs of colic, frequent urination and passing stools.
2. "Activation" – This is actually when the mare goes into "labor." At the time of activation, the membranes rupture (her "water breaks") Things should progress fairly quickly after this point. Make sure to record what time it is!
3. "Expulsion of the foal" (delivery) – The foal is normally presented with the soles of the front feet pointing downward. One foot will generally be 6-8 inches ahead of the other foot. The nose should appear at about the same level as the foal's knees. If the foal is not in this position, let the mare get up and down a few times. The foal will usually turn itself into the proper position, if not, **call the vet!** Delivery should take about 15 minutes. If the mare has not made any progress in 15-20 minutes, **call the vet!** When the foal's head and forelegs are free of the mare, make sure the nostrils are clear, and then let the mare and foal lie still. The foal may receive an additional quart of blood from the mare at this time. The umbilical cord will break by itself when the mare stands up.
4. "Passage of the placenta" – This usually occurs within minutes of foaling, but can take up to several hours. A retained placenta can lead to serious complications, such as laminitis or uterine infection. Your vet should be called if the membranes have not passed within 3 hours. Save the placenta for the vet to examine.

The foal should stand within 1 hour after being born, and should be nursing within 2 hours of being born. The mare and foal should be examined thoroughly. The initial exam for the foal is important to identify problems early, and to begin preventive care to ensure a healthy, happy foal. If there are no problems noted, the initial exam can occur 12 hours after the foal has first nursed. This allows us to run an IgG test to determine if the foal has had an adequate amount of colostrum. If there are any problems during foaling or immediately after, we recommend having the mare and foal evaluated immediately. Please call should you have any foaling questions or concerns.

Facts & Tidbits
Did you know that horses can't vomit?

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Veterinary Hospital**
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Equine Normals

Temp: 99.5-100.5 F
Pulse: 30-40 beats/min
Respirations: 8-16 breaths/min
Mucous Membrane Color: (gum tissue color) pink & moist
CRT (capillary refill time): time it takes for color to return to gum tissue adjacent to the teeth after pressing & releasing usually less than 2 seconds.
GI Motility: listen for gut sounds, stethoscope or ear to flank – all 4 quadrants. 3-4 gut sounds per minute.

Please call us anytime you have a question about your horse.
952-435-8387

Make your life easier!
Sign up for automatic payment of your bill and receive a 3% discount for paying at the time of service! (We are currently working on having an online bill pay option. We'll let you know when we know more.)

We had an unusual number of positive fecal tests in February. We have put together a Dewormer Kit that includes all the dewormer medication you'll need for an adult horse for 1 year. Please call for foal dewormer options.

This is our recommended schedule:

January-Double Strongid
March-Quest Plus or Double Panacur
May-Ivermectin with Praziquantel (Equimax)
July-Double Panacur
September-Quest Plus or Ivermectin
November-Ivermectin with Praziquantel (Equimax)