



Pregnant Mare Checklist

- ❖ The mare should be confirmed pregnant by ultrasonographic exam 14 days after ovulation. At this time, the uterus can be examined thoroughly to evaluate uterine tone, tone of the cervix and also to look for twins. Any other abnormalities may also be noted at this time.
- ❖ The embryo's heartbeat is visible by ultrasonic exam at 23-25 days of pregnancy. The mare should be rechecked around days 28-45 of pregnancy to be sure the pregnancy has maintained and the heartbeat is still visible. Early embryonic death most commonly occurs in the first 45 days of pregnancy.
- ❖ Pregnant mares should be vaccinated against equine rhinopneumonitis (EHV-1) at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation to decrease the likelihood of abortion due to herpes virus.
- ❖ The mare should also be vaccinated 30 days prior to foaling to ensure appropriate levels of antibodies are present in the colostrum. These antibodies will help protect the newborn foal until the foal's immune system is fully developed around 2-3 months of age. Pre-foaling vaccine protocols can vary, but typically we recommend vaccinating against EEE, WEE, Tetanus, Influenza, Rabies, and West Nile.
- ❖ If your mare has had a Caslick's in place during pregnancy, the procedure needs to be reversed within 7-14 days of the foaling date to prevent soft tissue trauma during birthing.
- ❖ Before foaling, the mare's mammary glands and perianal area should be cleaned using warm, soapy water. This greatly decreases the amount of bacteria the foal could ingest when attempting to suckle. Be careful, as some mares can be very sensitive and may not tolerate cleaning.
- ❖ Foaling is initiated when the mare's water breaks. From this point forward, it should not take more than an hour for the foal to be born. The foal's front feet should present first, followed by its nose between its front legs. If the foal is presented abnormally, please call CBE immediately. Also, if the mare does not seem to be progressing in the foaling process within 20 minutes, please call CBE for advice and assistance.



- ❖ The mare should pass her placenta within three hours of foaling. If it is not passed by this time, it is considered retained and veterinary treatment will be necessary. If part of the placenta is protruding from the mare's vagina, **DO NOT** attempt to pull the placenta out. This could tear the placenta and contribute to major problems such as a uterine infection and subsequent laminitis. When the mare does pass her placenta, keep the placenta in a garbage bag out of the sun and away from other animals until the vet can perform a thorough inspection.

- ❖ Make sure that the mare is lactating at the time of foaling and that she allows the foal to nurse. Maiden mares especially can be sensitive around their mammary glands and may need some assistance in accepting the foal. (The foal should stand and nurse within 2 hours of foaling). If problems are noted with foal acceptance or suckling, veterinary intervention may be necessary.

- ** Remember the 1, 2, 3, rule about foaling. 1 hour maximum for the actual foaling process to occur after the mare's water breaks, 2 hours until the foal stands and nurses, and 3 hours for complete passage of the placenta**

- ❖ The mare should be dewormed with an ivermectin paste dewormer (there are several different brands available) within 24 hours of foaling. This will decrease the incidence of *Strongyloides westerii* in her milk and thus in the foal.

- ❖ A thorough physical exam by a veterinarian should be done on the mare and foal within the first 8-18 hours post foaling to rule out problems such as uterine infection, rectal tears, retained placenta, vaginal trauma, hydration status and body condition. During this visit, the foal will also have a complete physical exam carried out and a blood sample will be drawn to be sure that adequate nursing has occurred.