

KVA CLIENT FOALING PROTOCOL

FOALING KIT:

- Thermometer
- Scissors
- Fleet Enema
- Desitin (Zinc Oxide)
- Brown Gauze or Vetrap - for wrapping tail during parturition. Apply to tail during stage 1 of labor (See below).
- *Clean towels (2) – add to kit*
- *Clean washcloth (1) – add to kit*
- Plastic cup (~12oz)
- Large syringe or baby bottle (large nipple)
- Flashlight
- Exam gloves
- Umbilical dip (dilute chlorhexidine solution or dilute betadine solution)
- Timepiece (watch or clock... or smartphone)
- Plastic grocery bags (4)
- Garbage bag (1) – to save placenta for veterinary inspection.
- Important phone numbers (veterinarian) – **KVA (717.361.8700)**

Additionally 2-3 bales of **straw bedding** may be purchased for foaling.

SIGNS OF IMPENDING PARTURITION (~24hrs):

- * **Wax production on teats**
- * **Dripping milk from teats**
- Relaxed tail tone
- Vulvar elongation

Mare should be checked **twice daily** and **KVA notified** when above signs of impending parturition are observed.

SIGNS AND STAGES OF ACTIVE PARTURITION:

STAGE 1 - Duration 1-2hrs:

- Restlessness, urination, uncomfortable, getting up and down, circling, decreased appetite, laying down, water breaks.
- Call veterinarian to notify!
- **WATER BREAKS** = End of stage 1 = beginning of stage 2.
- Stage 1 can occasionally take longer than 2hrs. Do NOT attempt to manually break water when mare is in stage 1. When the mares water breaks naturally this concludes stage 1 of labor.
- **Note time** of water breaking (end of stage 1).

STAGE 2 (Active Labor!) - Duration 5-10min (> 20min = emergency):

* Water breaks (start of stage 2). **Start the clock.**

1. **Get foaling kit**
2. Wrap tail (brown gauze or vetrap)
3. Check position. Normal position (**two feet, nose, white membrane visible (amnion)**) – Call KVA if these three things are not observed or red membrane visible before foal is present.
 - a. After **10 minutes** of labor apply gentle traction WITH mare's contractions. **Let the mare do it herself! Only help if needed**
 - b. Deliver foal – clear membranes from nares & towel dry well, make sure foal breathing.

POST FOALING (foal)

1. Administer **fleet enema** per rectum (1/4 volume for mini horses)
2. **Dip umbilicus** (after mare breaks the umbilicus) – If bleeding profusely and won't stop, apply digital pressure (pinch for 5min)
3. **Clean mare's udder** with warm damp washcloth.
4. **Collect colostrum (60-120ml)** in cup.
5. **Administer colostrum to foal** through with baby bottle or 60cc cath tip syringe. Give the foal as much colostrum as it would like. However, if no suckle or not interested, wait 5 min and try again. **DO NOT FORCE FEED FOAL IF NOT SUCKLING YET.**
6. **Put some hay in front of mare....** She will be **FAMISHED!**



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* **DYSTOCIA** (difficult foaling) – If foal not delivered within 20min of water breaking (stage 2) OR incorrect presentation (not two front feet and nose) call veterinarian immediately.

STAGE 3 – Passage of Placenta (Duration < 2hrs)

- Tie the hanging placenta and membranes into **shopping bag** and secure as high up as possible. Do NOT pull placenta manually.
- Once placenta has been passed. Save in a garbage bag or bucket of water for veterinarian to examine at time of newborn foal exam.
- CLEAN UP - Pick stall, replace soiled/wet bedding with fresh **straw** bedding.

* **RETAINED PLACENTA** (If not passed within **2hrs post foaling**):

- Call veterinarian if placenta not passed by 2hrs post foaling. This is a life-threatening condition that can lead to death by septicemia if not addressed immediately and appropriately.

FOAL TIMELINE:

- Foal should be **standing** and have **passed meconium** (first defecation) **by 2hrs post parturition**.
- Foal should be **nursing from mare by 3hrs post parturition**. May bottle feed if not nursing from mare.