

Pregnant Mare Protocol

Great Lakes Equine Wellness Center recommendations:



Pregnancy check recommendations:

At a minimum:

- Day 14 – 1st diagnosis of pregnancy, check for twins
- Day 28 – to confirm heartbeat
- Day 60 – to ensure pregnancy is advancing normally

Additional ultrasounds may be recommended if there are any concerns or problems

Normal gestation of a mare: 335-345 days



Nutrition:

- No additional calories are necessary until approximately 8 months of gestation
- Ensure your mare is being fed a well-balanced diet of vitamin, minerals and protein
- Avoid excessive vitamin/mineral supplementation (doubling up with multiple different products)



Vaccination:

- Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) is the #1 cause of abortion in the US, therefore it is important to remember to vaccinate your mares for this. The current recommendations for EHV-1 is to vaccinate with Pneumobort-K at 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation and if your mare is a maiden 3, 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation.
- Target your spring vaccines approximately 4-6 weeks prior to the foal's birth to ensure that the foal has the proper infection fighting agents passed through in the mare's colostrum. It is recommended to vaccinate for Eastern & Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, West Nile, Potomac Horse Fever, Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis, +/- a killed intramuscular strangle vaccine.



Deworming:

- Deworm every 2 months as recommended on GLEWC's deworming protocol for adult horses.
- Avoid Quest/Combo Care (moxidectin) in pregnant mares
- Deworm with Panacur/Safeguard (fenbendazole) 24 hours after the foal is born to prevent passage of parasite eggs to the foal.



Call GLEWC immediately

if there are any problems

during foaling or if

your mare foals normally

call to schedule an

examination for the

mare & foal and an IgG

test for the foal.



Pregnant Mare Protocol continued



Caslick:

- If your mare had a caslick placed after breeding it is important to have your caslick cut open approximately 1 month prior to her foaling date- this can be done at the same time as her vaccinations.



Indications of problems during pregnancy:

- Vaginal discharge
- Signs of colic
- Return to estrus (heat) during early pregnancy
- Premature lactation or mammary development
- Abortion
- Prolong gestation > 1 year
- Foaling early (< 320 days of gestation = premature)



Indications of problems during foaling:

- Stage 2 labor (pushing) > 20 minutes, indicated by the breaking of the water
- Red, velvety membrane coming out of the vulva (red bag delivery)
- Mare continues to strain and no part of the foal is visible
- No active progression of pregnancy
- Any excessive bleeding noted during labor
- Hind limbs are coming out first
- Any excessive vaginal tearing/trauma
- Amniotic sac does not break once the foal has been completely expelled
- Placenta has not been expelled after 3 hours

It is very important to monitor your mare during foaling but to allow her to foal without your interference and in the peace and quiet. Horses are instinctual prey animals and can at times hold off having their babies until they feel ready. Mares are more than capable of having their babies without our help; therefore do not interfere unless there appears to be a problem.

It is also very important to keep your mare's stall (at least a 12 x 14 pen) extremely clean during late pregnancy and bedded deeply with straw. It is extremely hazardous for a foal's umbilicus to contact a manure covered ground. In addition, the stall should be kept as clean as possible during the first few weeks of the foal's life.



The IgG test should be evaluated at 12-24 hours of age. Remember to save the placenta- place it in a clean pail/garbage bag for evaluation by your veterinarian.

