

Pregnant Mare Management Factsheet

Update April 2020



Eagerly awaiting the arrival of your foal can be an exciting and nerve-wracking time, and it is important that you prepare your mare in several ways to ensure she is in optimal health before giving birth.

Daily inspections

- It is important to check your mare daily throughout her pregnancy to monitor for any abnormalities
- Mammary development
- Vaginal discharge – if this is noted, please call your vet immediately as this can be a symptom of infection or potential abortion.

Vaccinations

- Influenza and Tetanus
- Continue annual vaccinations or start vaccination course if your mare is not protected against these diseases
- Boosters given within the last month of pregnancy will give the foal maximum protection until 4-6 months of age
- Equine Herpes Virus -1 and -4
- Vaccinations at 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation o Rotavirus
- Vaccinations at 8, 9 and 10 months of gestation

Worming

Continue normal pasture management and worm control protocol

We recommend:

- Faecal worm egg counts every 12 weeks throughout the grazing season
- Only deworm based on faecal worm egg count results – this can be discussed with your vet

Diet and Body Condition Score

- Nutrition plays a vital role during pregnancy and it is important to meet the demands of a rapidly growing foal. A good diet for the

mare ensures good quality colostrum for the foal.

- During the last 3 months of gestation, foals can gain up to 60% of their total birth weight! o Provide free access to high quality forage throughout pregnancy, and in the last 3 months begin to supplement with a stud mix
- As the foal grows in size, the mare's appetite will decrease as it begins to occupy more space within her abdomen.
- To ensure she receives appropriate amounts of feed, giving her smaller more often can be helpful. E.g. 3-4 small feeds per day
- Maintaining an appropriate body condition score of 3/5 is important as obesity and malnutrition can predispose the mare and foal to a number of adverse health conditions.

Dental

- Dentistry is an aspect of preventative healthcare in any horse or pony, however in the pregnant mare it is important to ensure that she is able to extract the highest quality of nutrition from her diet as possible. This can be achieved by maintaining good dental health.
- We recommend routine dental examinations every 6-12 months

Farriery

- Ensure that your mare is kept up to date with her farriery care
- We recommend routine trimming every 6-8 weeks

Exercise

- We recommend continuing normal daily turnout throughout pregnancy
- Many people discontinue exercise once the mare is confirmed in foal, however it is important that all strenuous exercise should cease from the 6th month of gestation.



Bearsted Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5LH
office@newnhamcourtequine.co.uk
T:01622 734 884

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Environment

- Introduce the mare into her foaling environment a minimum of 4 weeks before her due date, this will allow her to become comfortable and build an immunity to the local environment.
- Provide adequate clean bedding
- Deep littering the stable can be helpful to provide a layer of grip underneath for the foal, this will avoid them slipping when trying to stand, as well as prevent pressure sores when recumbent.
- CCTV camera of window so the mare can be observed undisturbed

Removal of Caslick's

- If you mare has had a caslick's procedure performed, this must be removed 12 weeks before foaling.

If you have any questions regarding management of your pregnant mare, please do not hesitate to contact the clinic to discuss with one of our vets.



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