

Foaling Checklists

Pre-foaling

- My mare has a body condition score ≥ 5 and is current on vaccines, farrier & dental work.
- I have tools to help me predict when my mare will foal.
- I prepared and disinfected a foaling stall.
- I have a schedule for myself and/or my staff, so my mare is monitored & someone is present when she foals. Everyone can access a cordless phone or cell phone.
- I have up to date healthcare records for my mare and created a new record for the foal.
- My foaling kit includes:
 - Stethoscope
 - Digital thermometer
 - Tail wrap
 - A sturdy flashlight with extra batteries
 - A list of emergency contacts and phone numbers
 - A watch or timer to monitor the progress of the foaling
 - A pen and notebook to record timing/any observations



- String
- Clean buckets
- Clean towels
- Garbage bag/container for the placenta
- Disposable, sterile exam gloves
- Sharp sterile scissors and knife
- Water, soap and anti-bacterial hand gel
- Antiseptic for the umbilical stump
- A small cup to hold the antiseptic

Foaling

- Stage I: Mare's contractions have started. This lasts **1-2 hours** and ends when the sac breaks & fluid comes out (i.e. her water breaks).
- Stage II: After her water breaks, the pearly-white membrane (the amnion) should appear. The foal's 2 front feet and a nose should follow, and the foal will be expelled. This should last **10-20 minutes**.
- Stage III: The placenta is expelled. This should last **1-3 hours**.

Call your vet if you see:

- Lack of progress, e.g. any stage lasts longer than normal
- A red bag instead of the pearly-white amnion
- The foal in an abnormal position
- Evidence of hemorrhage
- Only parts of a placenta are expelled or the placenta is not expelled after 3 hours

Post-Foaling

- My foal is standing within **1 hour**.
- My foal is nursing within **2 hours**. Confirm the foal is latched on and swallowing milk.
- My foal has passed first stool & mare has passed the placenta within **3 hours**.
- My mare & foal have had a vet check.
- My foal has had an IgG test.

Call your vet if your foal:

- Is weak or lethargic
- Does not nurse, urinate or defecate
- Has abnormal vital signs (e.g. fever, pale yellow mucous membranes)
- Has swollen joints
- Has diarrhea