

LVVS Mare & Foal Care

Parturition after 345 Day Gestation:

- ☐ Stage I - 30 minutes – 4 hrs
 - restless mares, colic signs, lie down repeatedly,
 - uterine contractions increasing intensity and cervical dilation
- ☐ Stage II –within 30-45 minutes
 - Expulsion of fetus
- ☐ Stage III – within 3 hours
 - expulsion of fetal membranes (placenta)

The Foal Should

- ❖ 1 Hour – standing
- ❖ 2 hour – nursing
- ❖ 3 hour- pass meconium/run/nap

What you need to do?

- 1.) Relax. Mother Nature has been doing this for millions of years. It's better to intervene only if problems are seen.
- 2.) Ensure foal breathes immediately – then allow mare and foal to bond.
- 3.) Ensure foal stands and nurses normally in 3 hours. Check IgG if concerned (especially if mare leaked during gestation)***
- 4.) Monitor for meconium passage (must be out in 6 hours max).
- 5.) Ensure eyelashes are turned out
- 6.) Check umbilicus daily for discharge, heat and swelling.
- 7.) Save placenta for vet check.
- 8.) Give Tetanus Antitoxin Intramuscularly or subcutaneously after birth.

*** Checking IgG levels in a foal is never a bad idea and can be done with a simple stall side test 8-12 hours of life. Definitely check if there is any suspicion that the foal has not nursed or received its colostrums which is Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT).

If < 400 g/dl = FPT – Needs colostrum or hyperimmune plasma. Recheck at 18-24 hours of life and then if still low give colostrums or hyperimmune plasma.

If >800 g/dl = ok.

Foal Vitals			
Heart Rate	80-100 beat/min	Times Nurse per hour	4-5 x
Respiratory Rate	20-40 br/min	Note on Respiration:	Increased when laying
Temperature	99-102° F	Mucous Membranes	Pale Pink / Moist

When to call the Vet?

If you feel something is wrong	Dystocia	Prematurity
Twins	Depressed foal	Recumbent foal
Foal not eating after 3 hours	Watery diarrhea	Colicky
Lack of suckle	No Colostrum intake	Lameness