



Facts about Newborn Foals

NORMAL VALUES

- Temperature: 99-101.5° F
- Heart Rate: 80-120 beats per minute
- Respirations: 30-40 breaths per minute
- Sitting up within several minutes
- Mucous membranes red or pink
- Breathing well within 15 minutes
- Suckle reflex within 20 minutes
- Standing in 1 hour
- Nursing in 2 hours
- Passing manure in 3 hours
- Urination by 9 hours

WHAT TO DO AT BIRTH

- Make sure foal is breathing
- Let umbilical cord break on its own
- Save placenta for vet to examine
- Dip navel in an iodine solution; check navel daily for urine dribbling
- Don't try to help foal nurse during the first 2 hours
- Sedate mare if she refuses nursing

WHEN TO CALL THE VET

- If foal not nursing by 4 hours
- If mare has no milk or refuses nursing
- If mare does not clean within 8-12 hours
- If foal's gums/eyes appear white or yellow
- If foal is listless or weak
- After 12-24 hours for a mare/foal wellness exam, administration of tetanus antitoxin, and to test that the foal received enough colostrum to develop its immune system

COLOSTRUM

- Store in plastic, not glass
- Store in freezer for up to 18 months
- Thaw at room temperature or in water less than 100° F
- 4-16 oz. each hour at 2, 3, 4, & 5 hours after birth

USING MILK REPLACER *(use a foal-specific one, not those labeled for multiple animal species)*

- Foal needs 10% body weight per day first few days; 25% body weight thereafter (To estimate volume, remember the phrase 'It's a pint per pound, the world around')
- Every 1-2 hours on day 1-2 (no more than 16 oz per feeding)
- Every 2 hours on day 3-4
- 4-6x per day by day 7; can now skip nights
- Use a foal, lamb, or human nipple if a foal version is not available
- Mix only enough for 12 hours; warm to room temperature; refrigerate unused portion