



With the start of spring we see the foaling season begin, this is such an exciting time in the Equine Calendar. Our vet Emily Bowcock BVSc MRCVS outlines the best preparation, how to manage a successful foaling and what to look out for in an emergency.

#### BEFORE FOALING:

The mare should be vaccinated for tetanus, with a booster vaccine being given **4 weeks** prior to foaling to ensure immunity is passed to the foal. Ideally mares should also be vaccinated for **Equine Herpes Virus** to protect against strains causing abortion. This is given at **5,7 and 9 months gestation**. Mares should be moved to their foaling environment 4-6 weeks prior to foaling. A clean and dry area away from drafts and direct sunlight. A large stable with straw is ideal.

Usually the mare will bag up (increased size of mammary glands) in the run up to foaling. Waxing of the teats is often 1-2 days prior to foaling, however this is **NOT** a reliable sign. If your mare is running / dripping milk prior to your foals arrival, please contact your vet as she might be losing very important colostrum. Most mares will foal on their own, but know what the signs are and we advise using a camera in your stable to monitor.

#### THREE STAGES OF THE LABOUR

##### STAGE 1- ONSET OF CONTRACTIONS:

Onset of contractions, this generally lasts 1-2 hours and signs can look very similar to colic. Inside, the foal will be moving into the birth canal. At this point call us to make us aware your mare is foaling can be helpful so we can be on standby should you need us. The end of Stage 1 is defined by rupture of the allantoic membrane which releases 'waters' and can look like urination.

##### STAGE 2 - BIRTH OF THE FOAL:

It should take **less than 30 minutes** to expel the foal with active contractions. The foal should come front feet first followed by nose, head and neck. **If this is not what you see call the vet immediately. IF THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESSION WITHIN 15-20 MINUTES CALL THE VET!**

If labour is progressing as it should remember to be quietly watch from outside the stable or on the camera to prevent disturbing your mare. We know how exciting and special this is but it is so important to leave the mare alone if everything is going to plan. Presentation of a **red velvety bag at the vulva is an EMERGENCY**. This is a red bag delivery signifying that the foal has become detached from its oxygen supply via the placenta. **YOU MUST OPEN / TEAR THE RED BAG** by carefully using scissors or a knife and get the foal out as quick as possible.

##### STAGE 3- DELIVERY OF THE PLACENTA:

The placenta should be passed within 3 hours. If the mare does not pass her placenta this can be a life threatening emergency and your vet should be called.

**TOP TIP:** We would recommend to all of you expecting a foal to ensure you have shared our phone number with people at your yard, and stock a notice on your stable door/ tack room with our number on (01584 841 080). Just in case.

If you have an expectant mare this Spring please do let us know. If you have any further questions or require more detailed information please get in contact with the practice. Information packs on the pregnant mare and foaling are available upon request.

## REMEMBER THE FOALING 1, 2,3...



DELIVER  
WITHIN

Hour



FOAL  
STANDING

Hour



PLACENTA  
PASSED

Hour

# DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



**WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE A DATE FOR OUR FIRST CLIENT EVENING OF 2023!**

Join us on the 18th May at 7pm, The Punchbowl (WV16 5NQ) for a talk lead by farrier Marc Jerram (AWCF BSc Homs CJF Grad Dip ELR Master Farrier) on "The Farrier and Vet Teamwork Approach to Laminitis". We would love to see as many of you as possible as it looks to be a really interesting and key topic for a number of our clients as we hit Spring

Marc has a some fantastic ideas and a has a number of brilliant case studies that he will show through the evening. If you would like to see more of Marc's work have a look on his website [www.thefarrier.co.uk](http://www.thefarrier.co.uk) for more of his work. Please call the office on 01584 841 080 to book your place on this free of charge client evening.

## **STRANGLES AWARENESS WEEK**

Severn Edge will be joining forces with a number of Equine Practices across the UK with the support of Redwings to highlight the dangers and risks of Strangles. Strangles Awareness Week will run from the 1st- 7th May 2023. During this week the Temperature Check Challenge will be running where there is the chance to win some fantastic prizes whilst learning more about this deadly disease. Speak to the team today to find out more, or head to [www.redwings.org.uk/stangles/horse-temerperature-checker](http://www.redwings.org.uk/stangles/horse-temerperature-checker). There will be more on social media in the coming weeks, but if you have any concerns at all please call the office immediately to find out more 01584 841 080.

**Help spread the word and not the disease #SAW2023**

## **HAVE YOU DONE YOUR WORM EGG COUNT?**



Spring is well and truly underway and now is the time to get another faecal worm egg count done as part of your horse's targeted worming programme. Only worming if necessary is better for your horse and helps to reduce resistance to wormers. We understand that when, and with what, we should worm our horses can be confusing. By using a WEC we can look at your horse's clinical history and worming record so that we can recommend whether your horse needs to be wormed or not, and if they do, then we will recommend a suitable wormer to use.

Worm egg counts should be repeated about every 12 weeks throughout the grazing season. Don't forget that our vets are always happy to give advice on a suitable worming programme and for those of you on the Horse Health Programme, 4 faecal worm egg counts are included!

Call our team today to find out more, or bring your samples down to us at Bridgnorth today.

## **VET HANNAH IS BACK!**

Hannah has returned from maternity this month and is already busy out and about seeing clients. If you wish to book in to see her, please call our helpful admin team who will be able to help. We hope that this constant growth of the team will mean that we are able to offer more appointments to you all over the spring.

