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### Linwood Veterinary Services

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*We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.*

**St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm**

**Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm**

**CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS**

**Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday**

**24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941**

## MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

**Clinic News: Friday April 2, the clinics will be closed for Good Friday. There will be no delivery service that day.**

BOVIKALC® Spring offer is back. Boehringer will provide a \$40 prepaid Visa® for up to 10 cases per farm with proof of purchase between March 1-April 30 2021, submitted by May 31, 2021.

### **FOALING SEASON IS HERE... what should you expect?**

With the foaling season starting soon here is a quick recap on the foaling process and what you should lookout for. Any concerns or questions should be discussed with your veterinarian.



#### ***How long is the gestation period of a mare?***

- The average gestation length is 330 days (11 months), however it can range from 320-380 days

#### ***How do I know if my mare is going to foal soon?***

Most mares will foal overnight. There can be many signs of impending foaling. These include:

- The production of milk in the udder. This begins 2-4 weeks before foaling.
- A wax appears on the teat ends. This appears 1-4 days before foaling.

### *Stages of Labour:*

- **Stage I:** typically lasts 1 to 2 hours
  - The mare may become anxious, have contractions, kicking at her belly (these signs may resemble colic) and perform nesting behaviour.
  - At this time, it is recommended that you wrap the tail and clean the perineal region.
  - You may begin to see the fetal membranes from the mare's vulva. These membranes should appear white in colour.
  - When the fetal membrane breaks and you see a rush of fluid Stage I is now complete.
- **Stage II:** is the expulsion of the foal and lasts 15-25 minutes
  - You should expect to see continuous progression of the foaling. The correct presentation is front feet with hooves pointing down followed closely by the nose, head, shoulders and hindquarter.
  - If there is no progression after 15 minutes following rupture of the fetal membranes, it is recommended that a veterinarian is contacted to rule out causes for dystocia such as breach.
  - Red bag delivery= **EMERGENCY**. You must break open the bag and deliver the foal. With red bag delivery there is premature separation of the placenta resulting in impaired oxygen delivery to the foal.
- **Stage III:** the phase in which the placenta is passed. This should occur within 1-3 hours.
  - If the placenta has not been passed within 3 hours, it is important that you call your veterinarian. Remember to keep any placenta that has been passed so the veterinarian can examine what parts are possibly retained.
  - A retained placenta can lead to serious complications including metritis and laminitis.



### *Tips to remember:*

- Allow the foal to break the membranes (exception: red bag delivery). Once it has broken through, ensure the foal is breathing.
- Following delivery ensure both the mare and foal are bright, alert and responsive.
- You do not have to cut the umbilical cord. In most cases, it will break when the mare or foal rises.
- The umbilical cord should be treated with antiseptic solution to prevent infection.
- The foal should pass meconium (the first dark and sticky stool) within 12 hours of foaling.
- In preparation for foaling, ensure the stall is clean and has an adequate amount of bedding.

#### **ONE, TWO, THREE RULE:**

- The foal should stand within **1** hour
- The foal should show ability to nurse within **2** hours, and ideally the placenta has passed at this point.
- The foal should be actively consuming colostrum within **3** hours of delivery.

We encourage you to check out these good resources:

- <https://www.equineguelph.ca/pregnancywheel/>
- <https://equineguelph.ca/Tools/Mare-&-Foal-Care.php>
- <https://aaep.org/horsehealth/foaling-mare-newborn-preparing-safe-successful-foal-delivery>
- <https://aaep.org/horsehealth/expectant-mare-assuring-health-and-well-being-pregnant-mare>

Any questions can be discussed with your veterinarian.