



**DELANEY**  
Veterinary Services Ltd

March 2014 Newsletter

## Help Your Mare Have a Safe Delivery

If your mare has made it through 11 months of pregnancy, you're almost home free. Labor and delivery, while momentous, are generally uneventful. In most cases, you will simply need to be a quiet observer – if, that is, you are lucky enough to witness the birth. Mares seem to prefer to foal at night in privacy, and apparently have some control over their delivery. Because most mares foal without difficulty, it is usually best to allow the mare to foal undisturbed and unassisted. What you can do, however, is prepare your mare for a safe and successful delivery.



- Write down your veterinarian's phone number well in advance of the birth and keep it by all phones.
- Monitor the mare closely when she is near her foaling date. As her foaling date approaches the external genitalia and musculature begin to change. The ligaments on either side of the tail begin to relax, causing the tail head to appear more prominent. The vulva lengthens and softens. The mare's udder will increase in size, and teats become distended. Approximately 24 hours before birth (may be longer) a waxy residue may be visible on the end of each teat.
- Wrap the mare's tail with a clean wrap when you observe the first stage of labor. Be sure that the wrap is not applied too tightly or left on too long (no more than 3 hours), as it can cut off circulation and permanently damage the tail.
- Wash the mare's vulva and hindquarters with a mild soap and rinse thoroughly clean and disinfect the stall area as thoroughly as possible and provide adequate bedding.
- When your mare starts foaling keep a watch or clock on hand so you can time each stage of labor. When you're worried or anxious, your perception of time becomes distorted. The watch will help you keep accurate track of the mare's progress during labor.
  - Stage 1- development of coordinated uterine contractions, restless behavior that may represent colic.
  - Stage 2- Rupture of the chorioallantois 'water breaking' marks the start of stage 2 labor. Most foals are born within 20-30 minutes. In a normal presentation the foal's front feet will come first, one slightly behind the other, with the nose following. If 30 minutes of labor has passed without the mare foaling call your veterinarian immediately.
  - Stage 3 is the passing of the placenta. This usually occurs within 1 hour. If the placenta does not pass by 3 hours after foaling contact your veterinarian.
- Schedule a new foal exam within 24 hours. Keep the placenta for your veterinarian to examine.

**Please keep helping us stay green in 2014!!!**



**Thank you for giving us your email addresses! Please keep them coming!**

**March is Dental Health Month!**



**Please call and ask us for more Information**

**March/April 2014 Office Hours:**

**Monday to Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm - Saturdays 8:00am - 1:00pm**

**Closed Good Friday: April 18, 12014**

**24 hour Emergency Service**

52218 RR 223, Sherwood Park, AB T8C 1B1

Website: [www.delaneyvetservices.com](http://www.delaneyvetservices.com) email: [office@delaneyvetservices.com](mailto:office@delaneyvetservices.com)

Like our Facebook page: delaneyvetservices