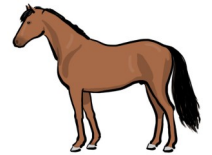




# Taking Care of Your Pregnant Mare



Experienced or new to the whole idea of taking care of a pregnant mare, Blue Ridge Equine Clinic is here to help. Your mares pregnant... Now what? While this is exciting, your mind might be racing with questions and concerns. Relax. We want you to be prepared and looking forward to the birth of your foal. We have put together an easy to follow vaccination schedule along with a foaling timeline and tips to follow along the way. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us!

**Why should you vaccinate?** Vaccination is important to help prevent viral infection that can cause abortions during pregnancy. Timing of the prefoaling vaccines is important as well because all of the foals immunity comes from the mare, so appropriate vaccination gives the foal the best protection for the first 6 months of its life.

**What about deworming?** You should continue with a regular deworming schedule during pregnancy, giving a last does 30 days prior to foaling and then deworming with ivermectin 48 hours after foaling.

## Vaccine Schedule

Month 4 of Gestation	Flu
Month 5 of Gestation	Pneumabort K– EHV1
Month 7 of Gestation	Pneumabort K– EHV1
Month 8 of Gestation	Botulism and Rotavirus
Month 9 of Gestation	Pneumabort K– EHV1 , Botulism, and Rotavirus
Month 10 of Gestation	Flu, Botulism, Rotavirus, Potomac Horse Fever, Core (Rabies, West Nile Virus, Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, Tetanus Toxoid)

\*For mares who have previously foaled, botulism should only be given twice. Once in month 9 and again in month 10\*

## FILL OUT YOUR MARES VACCINE SCHEDULE

<b>Mares Name:</b>	<b>Stallions Name:</b>	<b>Date of Last Breeding:</b>
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Month of Gestation:	Vaccine	Vaccine Due Date:	Vaccine Was Given On:
Month 4	Flu		
Month 5	Pneumabort K– EHV1		
Month 7	Pneumabort K– EHV1		
Month 8	Botulism and Rotavirus		
Month 9	Pneumabort K– EHV1 , Botulism, and Rotavirus		
Month 10	Flu, Botulism, Rotavirus, Potomac Horse Fever, Core		

The normal range of gestation is about 340 days give or take 14 days.

**DUE DATE:**

## **FOALING TIMELINE**

- The mare should begin to develop her udder or “bag up” about a month prior to foaling. You should begin preparing a clean dry stall for your mare and getting her used to the routine of coming in at night.
- Approximately 1 week before foaling you should see the teats become distended and some fluid may begin to drip or form a crusty discharge on the teats. Some mares will also have some swelling (edema) along the bottom of their abdomen.
- When wax begins to form on the tips of the teats it is very likely that the mare is within 48hrs of foaling. You may also notice the ligaments around her tail head are relaxing and softening also, her vulva may relax and elongate. All of these are signs of impending parturition
- Once active labor starts, you will notice that the mare become restless she may get sweaty, circling, pawing and be reluctant to eat. This can last anywhere from 1 – 6 hours .
- Once the water breaks things should move much more quickly. She will have much stronger contractions and begin active labor. The appearance of a white amniotic sac should be seen within 10 minutes followed rapidly by 2 front feet and the tip of the nose right after that. From this point on there should be steady progress resulting in the expulsion of the foal within 20 – 30 minutes.
- After foaling the foal should be standing in 2-3 hours and nursing within 4 hours. The Placenta should pass in as little as 30 minutes and no more than 5 hours.

All of these milestones are typical but each mare may have her own plan, especially maiden mares. The most important time to watch for, is once the water breaks, everything needs to move right along or there may be significant problems so make sure you watch the time and consult with your veterinarian about when they want to be alerted to potential problems

### **Use the 1,2,3 rule!**

- 1 hour post foaling– the foal should be standing
- 2 hours post foaling– foal should be drinking from the mare
- 3 hours post foaling– Mare should have passed the placenta



### **What should you have on hand?**

- Plenty of clean towels,
- Foal enema
- Navel dip,
- Fresh bedding for after foaling.