

Newborn Progression



Your newborn Laying, Walking, Nursing

The foal should stand within 1-2 hours and nurse in 2-3 hours.

- Although it can be frustrating to watch, it is best to let the foal find its way up and to the udder on its own as long as the attempts are progressive.

It is absolutely vital that the foal get adequate colostrum (the mare's first milk) in the first 6-12 hours. Foals are born without protection against any infection and require the immunity in the colostrum to survive.

- An enema can be given to the foal shortly after birth and should be given if the foal is straining to pass meconium. The meconium (first manure) will be very dark and can be very firm. It will start to pass within a few hours of birth. Continue to watch for signs of straining or colic until all the meconium has passed.
- Dip the navel at least twice more in the first 24 hours.
- **Call your veterinarian to come for a neonatal exam and IgG blood test within the first 24 hours.** The test will tell you the level of IgG, or immunoglobulin, in the blood. Your veterinarian will recommend treatments depending on the level of IgG. Failure of a foal to receive or absorb enough IgG is called Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT). If your foal has very low IgG, it will need to have plasma administered intravenously through a catheter. This plasma contains high amounts of IgG.

If your mare has a history of poor colostrum production, or she leaks milk prior to foaling, notify your veterinarian immediately. There are oral supplements that can increase IgG levels that must be given in the first hours of life – possibly making the plasma unnecessary. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your mare or foal, contact GLEWC at 920-779-4444.

THE PROGRESSION

