

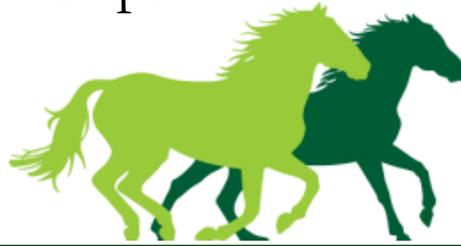
**Damory Veterinary  
Clinic**

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# Damory Veterinary Clinic

## Equine Department



### A Guide To Foaling

#### A. Before Foaling

##### Normal events:

**Udder enlargement**– This occurs in the last month of pregnancy.

**Waxing on teats**– A crusty drop forms on the end of the teats about 48 hours before foaling.

##### Problems:

**Colic**– Mild colic is not uncommon in late pregnancy but should prompt a call to the surgery.

**Swelling in front of udder**– Sometimes a little swelling (oedema) develops on the belly in front of the udder due to the large uterus reducing the circulation. Call the surgery if it is excessive or painful as another problem can be damage to the ligament supporting the belly which occurs in late pregnancy.

**Discharge from vulva**– If any discharge is noticed the mare should be seen as an infection is possible and could result in an abortion or premature foaling

**Running milk**– The foremilk or colostrum contains all the antibodies that the foal needs to fight infection in the first 3-4 months of life. If this is lost before the foal sucks, the foal does not receive its full immunity and is susceptible to infection. Call the surgery and we can advise on if it is necessary and how to collect the colostrum.

#### B. Foaling Process

##### Normal events:

**First stage of labour**– The uterus contracts and the cervix opens. The mare is uncomfortable and looks colicky. She will get up and down.

**Second stage of labour**-This the delivery of the foal and usually happens in just a few minutes

**Third stage of labour**-This is the delivery of the placenta (foetal membranes).

##### Problems:

**Mare lying and straining with no foal**– If no foal is born after 5-10 minutes call the surgery immediately.

**Red swelling at the vulva**– Call surgery immediately.

#### C. After Foaling

##### Normal events

A very rough guide to what the foal should do and when follows:

Sitting up by 15 minutes

Standing by 1 hour

Drinking by 2 hours

