



# WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

## Our Targeted Worming Scheme

Our worming scheme offers fantastic value, for only £65 per year, you will receive:

- 4 worm egg counts (WECs)
- 1 tapeworm saliva test (to be done between November and February)
- 10% discount on any wormers required
- 1 faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT)
- Unlimited worming advice by phone

The worming scheme could save you more than £44 per year!

Please speak to your vet at their next visit or call our office on 01328 864444 if you are interested in joining.



Wensum Valley Vets



## Foaling

Many mares foal without problems, however it is important to know what is normal, so as to act quickly if needed. Stable cameras can be useful as some mares are very private and try hard to foal when no one is watching!

### Before foaling

Mares should stay in the environment you plan for them to foal in for 4-6 weeks prior to their due date. This will help them develop antibodies specific to their environment to pass on to their foals and help prevent disease. Maintaining a routine is also advisable during these weeks. Mares will often "bag up" (increased udder and teat size, wax at teat end) in the 1-2 days prior to foaling, which can be helpful but is not always reliable for timing of foaling. Running/leaking milk prior to foaling is not normal and should be reported to your vet.



01328 864444

### Stage 1 Labour

Stage 1 is the onset of labour, when contractions begin and the foal moves into the birth canal. This lasts one to two hours and signs can mimic those of colic, such as rolling, pawing and getting up and down. This is a good time to apply a tail bandage if safe to do so. Stage 1 ends when the allantoic membranes break releasing a rush of fluid (sometimes confused with urination) - this is her "waters breaking".

### Stage 2 Labour

Stage 2 is birth of the foal, it should take no more than 30 minutes and significant progress should be seen within 15 minutes of the mare's waters breaking. Normally foals are born in a diving position with front hooves followed by nose. The nose will be covered with a cream/yellow membrane which can be removed from the nose as soon as it is out of the mare. Hooves coming out with the soles up or a visible tail are both signs to call a vet immediately, as the foal may be backwards.

### Stage 3 Labour

Stage 3 is the delivery of the placenta, this starts when delivery of the foal is complete. It should take 3 hours or less, and the placenta should be checked for completeness by a vet, so please don't throw it away, or move it with a pitch fork! Retained placenta (or part of the placenta) is potentially life threatening.



### After Foaling

After a normal birth foals should:

- Stand within 2 hours
- Suckle within 4 hours
- Pass meconium (black faeces) within 4 hours
- Pass urine within 8 hours

It is vital that the foal takes in adequate colostrum in its first 6 hours of life to develop an immune system. If the foal is unable to latch on or shows no interest in feeding this can quickly become an emergency. Iodine should be applied to the navel immediately, and we recommend a mare and foal vet check within 24 hours.

