

# Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



www.wmvets.co.uk

February 2021

## Zone visits

Zone visits take place in specific areas on a weekly basis for both routine appointments and dentals.

This is a brief visit, at a time to suit the vet's diary/route, and you will be given an hour's time slot at the latest the day before the appointment of when the vet will be at your yard. In return for this flexibility you do not pay a visit fee, you just pay for the consultation and medication your horse receives at the time. During current restrictions we are asking for payment over the telephone by credit/debit card either when we call to confirm the appointment, or on the day of the appointment, we are not accepting cash.



**Please be aware that these are short appointments for routine treatments only. Things that we will do on the zone are:**

• Vaccinations	• Blood tests
• Microchips	• Passport Sketch
• Medication check up	• Suture removal
• Quick Health Check	• General Advice

During current times it is more important than ever that our vets are not expected to "just look at this....." "whilst they are there". They will of course help if they can, but please do not be offended if you are told this is not possible. All visits are risk assessed and we are asking all clients to follow our COVID protocol in regard to social distancing, hand washing, wearing masks etc.

## Charity News

### Horses for Hope GB

You may recall last year Horses for Hope was born to raise money following the devastating fires in Australia. What started out as relatively small dressage competition went viral and a massive £17,000 was raised. This year, they are at it again, but this time the cause is much closer to home, raising money to help the horses in the North West who have been affected by the terrible flooding recently. They are holding an online show plus another amazing raffle. We will be supporting them with a number of raffle prizes, as well as many of us entering our own horses in the online competition that has over 60 classes!!! Please do join us in supporting this worthwhile cause. More information can be found on their facebook page.



## Charity News

### One hundred miles in January challenge



Throughout January, Claire Phillips has taken on a running challenge. The original target was 50 miles to raise money for Maggie's Care centres, a regional cancer support charity. Not to do things by half, the target was raised to 100 miles.

With true Wright and Morten team spirit, Mark Tabachnik and Rachel Helm provided full on support and have run their legs off too, covering over 130 miles between them.

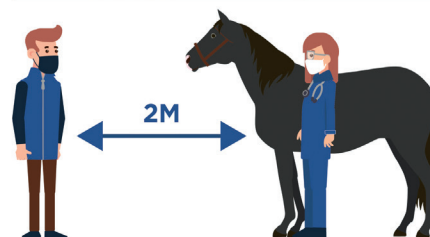
There is fundraiser page if anyone would like to donate:

[https://www.facebook.com/donate/688535871808903/?fundraiser\\_source=external\\_url](https://www.facebook.com/donate/688535871808903/?fundraiser_source=external_url)

## COVID

Thank you to everyone for working with our vets to do our bit to stay safe during this difficult time.

### COVID-19 BEVA Protect Your Vet



<b>Talk Beforehand:</b> Is Anyone Ill? Can We Be COVID-Safe Can We Be Physically Safe	<b>During The Visit:</b> Wear a Mask Give Your Vet Space Stay Safe
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# Foaling

## How to prepare for your imminent arrival and what to expect during labour...

### What should I do as an owner?

#### Before foaling:

Ensure you know what is and isn't normal and the normal! The following information should be helpful but get in touch if you have any further questions.

The mare should have cover for tetanus vaccination which needs boosting 4 weeks prior to foaling. Depending on the situation and mares tetanus status we may administer tetanus antitoxin at our post foaling check to ensure they are both protected. Ideally mares should also be vaccinated for equine herpes virus which is given as a course of 3 vaccinations at 5, 7 and 9 months gestation.

Mares should be moved to the environment in which they are due to foal 4-6 weeks prior to foaling. This is so they develop environment specific antibodies which will then be passed to the foal via the mares milk to prevent disease. Keeping the mares routine consistent is advisable, especially as you near her due date. Ensure the foaling environment is clean, dry and away from drafts and direct sunlight. A large stable with a straw bed is ideal.

Usually the mare will bag up (mammary glands increase in size) in the immediate run up to foaling. Often 1-2 days prior to foaling wax will appear at the ends of the teats. Although they can be helpful signs in most mares they are not fully reliable as some mares won't bag up or produce wax. If you notice the mare running milk prior to foaling please let the vet know as there is a risk the mare will waste her all important colostrum.

Most mares foal without any problems. However, it's important to know what to expect so you can act quickly if things aren't going to plan. Have a watch as timings are critical. Some mares are very private and will do their best to foal when you are not watching. Stable cameras can be useful so you can keep an eye on her progress without frequently disturbing the mare.

### There are 3 stages of labour:

#### Stage 1:

- This is the onset of contractions and generally lasts one to two hours.
- This stage can mimic signs of colic with the mare getting up and down, rolling, pawing etc.
- During this phase the foal moves into the birth canal.

- The end of stage 1 is signalled by the allantoic membrane breaking releasing a rush of placental fluids which may be confused with urination.

- Applying a tail bandage at this stage can be helpful but this must be removed after stage 3. Alternatively you can plait the tail prior to this stage.

#### Stage 2:

- This is the actual birth of the foal

- Stage 2 should last less than 30 minutes.

**\*\*IF THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESSION WITHIN 15 MINUTES AFTER THE MEMBRANES RUPTURE CALL THE VET IMMEDIATELY\*\*.**

- If labour is progressing, watch quietly from outside the stable.

- Normal presentation of the foal resembles a diving position- front feet first, hooves down followed by nose, head, neck, shoulders and hindquarters. Normal membranes which cover the foal are white/yellow or translucent. Once the nose/head is out of the vulva this membrane can be removed from the nose.

- Presentation of a red velvety bag at the vulva IS AN EMERGENCY. "Red Bag Delivery" indicates premature rupture of the chorioallantois which means the foal has become detached from its blood and oxygen supply. YOU MUST TEAR THE BAG OPEN - you will need scissors or knife to break this tough red bag but be careful as the foal is inside!

- If you notice the hooves are sole up or you can see a tail call the vet immediately.

#### Stage 3:

- This begins after delivery

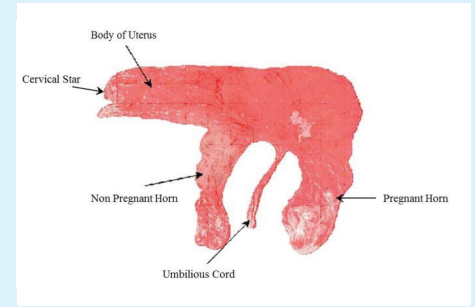
- The placenta (after birth) should be expelled within 3 hours

- A retained placenta is potentially life threatening so call your vet if the mare hasn't passed a complete placenta within 3 hours (see below).

Have some iodine or antibiotic spray in stock (oxytetracycline spray) which will need to be applied to the foals navel immediately after foaling. Disposable gloves are also useful to have in stock for handling the foal and placenta.

**Know our contact number (01260 280800) and ensure you have a working mobile should you need to contact us urgently.**

## The Placenta



### What is normal post foaling?

After birth a normal foal will:

- Sit up within the first 5 minutes
- Have a suck reflex within 10 minutes
- Stand within 2 hours (often before 1 hour)
- Suckle within 4 hours (often by 2 hours)
- Passed meconium within 4 hours (black tarry faeces)
- Passed urine within 8 hours

### Post Foaling:

Any failure to carry out the normal timeline above is a reason to call the vet. It is vital the foal ingests adequate quality of the mares colostrum within the first 6 hours to allow it to develop its own immune system. It is normal for the foal to make several failed attempts before it starts feeding but if the foal shows no interest or is unable to latch on an urgent vet visit will be required. We recommend a routine vet check of the mare and foal within the first 24 hours of birth and can check the foals immunity level with a simple blood sample at this stage. If the antibody levels are low the foal will be at risk of potentially fatal infections and a plasma transfusion may be needed to boost the foals immunity.

It is also important to check the mare. She should show interest in the foal within 30 minutes of foaling, with licking and nickering being normal behaviours. Some mares can be foal proud so be careful when handling and try not to position yourself between the mare and foal. The mare should pass a intact placenta within 3 hours of foaling (see pic). If the placenta is not passed or incomplete urgent vet attention is needed.



## EQUINE CLINIC

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