

Beadle Lake Large Animal Clinic

7115 Tower Road

Battle Creek, MI 49014

269-441-9233

FOALING PROTOCOL

Keep the following information near the foaling stall...

1. Wash the mare's udder with warm water and a mild soap prior to foaling. Rinse thoroughly.
2. Once the mare's water breaks, the foal should be delivered within 20 to 30 minutes.
3. A foal should stand within 1 to 2 hours of birth and nurse shortly after that.
4. The mare should pass the placenta within 1 to 2 hours after foaling.
5. The foal's navel should be dipped in a chlorhexidine or 2% iodine solution several times in the first 24 to 48 hours. **DO NOT** use 7% tincture of iodine.
6. The mare's first milk (colostrum) contains protective antibodies needed to protect the foal. These antibodies can only be absorbed by the foal in the first 12 to 24 hours of life. If the foal doesn't nurse, it will need to be fed 2 to 4 ounces of clean colostrum as soon as possible. A serum antibody test can be performed at 24 hours to ensure protection.
7. If the foal hasn't passed meconium (first bowel movement) and is straining to defecate, a Fleet® enema can be **slowly** administered.
8. The foal needs a tetanus vaccination only if the mare was not vaccinated within the last 30 to 45 days.
9. If there are no problems with the foal, set an appointment for a physical examination within 24 to 36 hours.
10. Call BLLA immediately if there are any problems.