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VETERINARY CLINIC

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providing comprehensive professional services to domestic pets, horses & farm livestock

- **Mare pre-foaling check**

- Tetanus booster 1 month before due dates
- Caslicks operation opened if performed
- Adequate nutrition, no premature milk production or dripping
- Ensure the foaling paddock is as clean and dust free as possible - a clean grassy paddock is ideal
- Look out for hairy caterpillars and kill them and their nests. They are toxic and cause abortions.

- **Mare post-foaling check**

- Once contractions start, foal should be delivered within 30 minutes
- Afterbirth should be delivered within 6 hours, preferably within 4 hours
- Mare should be comfortable, bright, alert and attentive to her foal
- A small amount of brownish reddish discharge (lochia) is normal for 2-3 days
- Yellow pussy discharge is abnormal
- Mild colic may be normal if afterbirth is retained but is generally worthy of a vet visit
- If mare is depressed, colicky or has retained afterbirth for more than 6 hours, vet visit is essential
- If the mares udder is tight and distended then the foal probably isn't suckling properly
- Over the next 2-3 months is a good time to have your mares teeth checked by us and have any required dental work performed

- **Foal check**

- Foal should be able to sit up unassisted within 10-20minutes
- Swab umbilicus with povidone iodine solution (betadine)
- Foal should be able to stand within 1 hour and be feeding shortly thereafter
- Foals feed for short bursts - 30 sec-3 minutes 4 - 6 times an hour
- Meconium (first motion) should be passed soon after first feed. Straining with no output is abnormal.(Back arched upward)
- Straining to urinate is abnormal (back arched downward)
- Foal should be active, bright, alert and responsive. Quiet foals are often sick foals.
- At 24 hours we recommend that the foal has a blood test to check the immunoglobulin level (IgG)
- Diarrhoea in the first few days of life is a bad sign and requires vet visit. 'Foal heat' diarrhoea is usually at 7-10 days of age and often unaccompanied by illness.
- Hopefully your mare(s) and foal(s) will have no complications and will progress through this period uneventfully. Remember - if in doubt, ring us and we'll discuss any problems and decide whether we need to have a look.
- AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES PHONE 0418 762 007

