



With Select Breeders Veterinary Services you get reproductive management you can count on to be **Safe, Simple, Sure.**



Care of the Pregnant Mare

Now that your mare is pregnant, the goal is to keep her healthy through pregnancy and to deliver a normal vigorous foal.

Housing

Mares should be kept in small groups with other mares at a similar stage of pregnancy and away from mares that travel to shows or off-site to other farms

Pregnancy Examinations

- Following breeding, the first pregnancy exam is usually performed by ultrasound at 14-16 days
- Exams are performed at 25-30 days, 50-60 days and in the Fall, prior to vaccinations
- Most pregnancy losses are before Day 40; after Day 40 the chance of a loss lowers to about 5-10%

Potential danger signs to look for:

- Premature udder formation and streaming of milk
- Vulvar discharge in any form

Nutrition

- **During the first and second trimester (up to 8 months):**
Feed the mare as a non-pregnant mare with good quality hay at 2.5% of body weight (about 25 lbs per day)
- **In the last 2-3 months:**
Feed free choice quality hay and a grain balancer (½ pound/100 pounds of body weight) containing adequate protein, and a mineral mix (copper, zinc, calcium, and phosphorus)
- **Once lactation starts, the mare's energy and protein intake should be increased:**
High quality grass and alfalfa forage with a mineral supplement can meet these needs, but most mares should receive a grain supplement fed per manufacturers instructions

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Parasite Control

- Internal parasite control relies on a combination of pasture management, manure disposal and strategic use of dewormers
- Deworming should be based on fecal egg counts
 - Low shedders need only to be dewormed twice per year
 - Moderate to high shedders will need a third treatment per your veterinarians recommendations
- Most modern dewormers are safe for use in pregnant mares
- Pregnant mares should be dewormed 4-6 weeks prior to foaling
 - Use ivermectin with praziquantel (Equimax[®], Zimectrin Gold[®]) or moxidectin with praziquantel (Quest Plus[®])
 - Mares should be given a dose of ivermectin on the day of foaling to help prevent the transmission of *S. westeri* to the foal
- Foals should begin a deworming program targeting ascarids prior to weaning, often at around 2 months of age

Vaccinations

- Vaccination of the broodmare has 3 goals; protect the mare from disease, prevent abortion, and protect the foal by passive transfer of immunity through colostrum
- Vaccinate the mare against Equine Herpes virus at 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation
 - Prodigy or Pneumabort K are approved vaccines
 - Some are given an additional dose at 3 months
- Pregnant mares are vaccinated for most diseases in a pre-foaling set of vaccines
- All broodmares in this region should be vaccinated annually against tetanus, Equine Herpes virus (EHV 1 and 4, Influenza), Eastern and Western encephalomyelitis (EEE+WEE), West Nile virus (WNV), and Rabies
- Administration of vaccines against other pathogens, such as Strangles, Botulism, Potomac Horse Fever, and Rotavirus, are risk based
 - Consult your veterinarian on whether any of these are suggested

Transportation

- Transport (9 hours in pleasant temperatures) does not increase the rate of embryonic loss for mares trailered in early pregnancy (16-38 days)
- In late pregnancy, we recommend that any significant transport is done at least 30 days before she is due to foal

Exercise

- Mares on pasture will generally get sufficient exercise
- Those in a paddock or stall benefit from hand-walking, riding or turnout several times a week
- Light-work is appropriate for pregnant mares as long as they are used to riding and do not appear stressed

Progesterone Therapy

- Generally, normal pregnant mares do not need supplemental progesterone
- Pregnant mares with diagnosed low progesterone, a history of pregnancy loss, or those with clinical signs of potential problems may have progesterone prescribed
 - Regu-Mate[®] (altrenogest) is a synthetic oral progestagen that is commonly prescribed
 - There are also daily and long acting forms of progesterone available as injections
 - Personal protective gear (latex gloves) need to be worn when administering any progesterone product
- The exact time to take the mare off Regu-Mate[®] varies
 - Some mares can stop progesterone supplementation as early as day 50-60 if repeat progesterone levels are determined
 - If no progesterone values are available then the mare is taken off progesterone supplementation by day 100-120 of gestation

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