

REVISED

Table 2. Normal Foaling Events

Time	Event	Action
3 to 5 weeks before	Mammary gland development begins; Early secretions are clear and watery. Abdomen enlarges and ventral edema may develop.	Give mare annual booster vaccines. When secretions become easy to obtain, begin to measure calcium concentrations.
1 to 2 weeks before	Udder fills and teats distend. Pelvic ligaments and tailhead relax. Secretions become opaque and sticky.	Monitor rising calcium concentration. Observe mare closely. Remove caslicks, if present.
Hours to days before	Teats distended and waxed. Some mares begin to leak colostrum. Vulva softens and elongates.	Strip, save, and freeze colostrum if mare loses more than ½ to 1 cup. Measure specific gravity with colostrometer; freeze.
1 to 6 hours before	Stage 1 labor begins. Mare becomes restless, paces, circles, sweats, urinates, and defecates frequently. Appetite often decreases.	Clean perineum and udder. Wrap tail. Pick out stall and rebed with fresh straw.
Delivery	Stage 2 labor begins with rupture of allantochorion and expulsion of several gallons of yellow allantoic fluid. Forceful contractions begin. Within 10 minutes, the translucent white amnion appears at vulva, followed by 2 forelegs—one preceding the other with soles pointing down, followed by foal's nose. Delivery complete within 20–30 minutes.	Begin timing delivery with rupture of allantochorion. If delivery does not progress, call vet. Walk mare to prevent excessive straining.
5 to 10 minutes after	Foal HR >60 bpm and RR >30 BPM, regular. Foal muscle tone: able to sit sternal. Foal reflexes: head shake with ear tickle; sneeze with nasal stimulation; tries to rise with tactile stimulus	If any parameter is below average, repeat score in 10 min. If pulse and respiration absent, begin CPR.
5 to 20 minutes after	Foal develops suckle reflex.	Dip umbilicus with 0.5% Nolvasan. Dip 2X daily for 2 days. Administer enema. Tie up placenta if it has not passed.
<1 hour after	Foal able to stand	Evaluate maternal behavior toward foal. Evaluate colostrum quality.
<2 hours after	Foal has nursed. Some meconium has been passed.	If foal has strong suckle, but has not found udder, collect colostrum and bottle-feed foal.
<3 hours after	Stage 3 labor complete. Placenta has passed.	Save, bag, and weigh placenta. Should weigh 10% of foal weight.
3 to 12 hours after	Foal has urinated for the first time.	Observe to be sure no urine drips from umbilicus.
<18 to 24 hours after	Meconium passage is complete. Manure is now pasty, yellow "milk feces". Colostral antibody absorption is complete.	Check IgG (> 400 to 800 mg/dl).
24 hours after	Foal nursing 3 to 7 times per hour. Regular urination, defecation. Mare has normal manure passage and normal temperature.	Deworm mare with ivermectin. Complete physical for mare and foal.