

# The UEA Bulletin

U N I O N V I L L E   E Q U I N E   A S S O C I A T E S ,   P . C .

## UEA's

### Top 10 Breeding Tips

1. Talk to your vet about whether or not breeding is the right choice for you & your mare
2. Choose a stallion that compliments your mare
3. Be aware of the stallion's collection schedule & costs
4. Know whether you will be breeding via live cover, cooled or frozen semen
5. Obtain a uterine culture and / or biopsy if necessary
6. Know your mare's cycle if possible
7. Ideally, have access to a teaser for your mare
8. Alert the stallion owner early in your mare's cycle
9. Coordinate the insemination with your vet
10. Remember: things may not always go as planned. Maintain flexibility and humor!

## Help Your Mare have a Safe Delivery

If your mare has made it through 11 months of pregnancy, you're almost home free. Labor and delivery, while momentous, are generally uneventful. In most cases, you will simply need to be a quiet observer – if, that is, you are lucky enough to witness the birth. Mares seem to prefer to foal at night in privacy, and apparently have some control over their delivery. Because most mares foal without difficulty, it is usually best to allow the mare to foal undisturbed and unassisted.

What you can do, however, is prepare your mare for a safe and successful delivery. Follow these suggestions from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) to help the new mother and baby get off to a great start:

- Write down your veterinarian's phone number well in advance of the birth and keep it by all phones.
- Keep a watch or clock on hand so you can time each stage of labor. When you're worried or anxious, your perception of time becomes distorted. The watch will help you keep accurate track of the mare's progress during labor.
- Wrap the mare's tail with a clean wrap when you observe the first stage of labor. Be sure that the wrap is not applied too tightly or left on too long, as it can cut off circulation and permanently damage the tail.
- Wash the mare's vulva and hindquarters with a mild soap and rinse thoroughly.
- Clean and disinfect the stall area as thoroughly as possible and provide adequate bedding.
- Consider using test strips that measure calcium in mammary secretions to help predict when the mare will foal. Sudden increases in calcium are associated with imminent foaling.
- If a mare is taking longer than 30 minutes to deliver the foal, call your veterinarian immediately.



For more information on labor and delivery and postpartum care for the mare and foal, ask your equine veterinarian for a copy of the "Foaling Mare and Newborn" client education brochure, provided by the AAEP in partnership with Educational Partner Bayer Animal Health. Additional information can be found on [www.myhorsematter.com](http://www.myhorsematter.com), the AAEP's Web site for all horse health topics.

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## Reduce Your Horses Gastric Ucler Risk

Ulcers are a man-made disease, affecting up to 90 percent of racehorses and 60 percent of show horses. Stall confinement alone can lead to the development of ulcers. A horse's feeding schedule also can be a factor. When horses are fed just twice a day, the stomach is subjected to a prolonged period without feed to neutralize its naturally produced acid. In addition, high-grain diets produce volatile fatty acids that can also contribute to the development of ulcers.

Stress, both environmental and physical, can increase the likelihood of ulcers, as can hauling, training and mixing groups of horses. Strenuous exercise can decrease the emptying of the stomach and the blood flow to the stomach, thus contributing to the problem.

The treatment and prevention of gastric ulcers is directed at removing these predisposing factors, thus decreasing acid production within the horse's stomach. Follow these tips from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) to properly treat your horse's ulcers:

- Allow free-choice access to grass or hay. Horses are designed to be grazers with a regular intake of roughage.
- If the horse must be stalled, arrange for the horse to see the horses he socializes with. Consider offering a ball or other object that the horse can enjoy in his stall.
- Feed the horse more frequently to help buffer the acid in the stomach.
- Decrease grains that form volatile fatty acids.

Medications that decrease acid production are available, but are only necessary in horses showing signs of clinical disease or when the predisposing factors, such as stress, cannot be removed.

The prevention of ulcers is the key. Limiting stressful situations along with frequent feeding or free-choice access to grass or hay is imperative. Neutralizing the production of stomach acid is nature's best antacid. For more information about gastric ulcers, ask your equine veterinarian for the "Equine Gastric Ulcers" brochure provided by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) in association with Nutrena, an AAEP Educational Partner. Additional information also can be found on the AAEP's horse-health Web site, [www.myhorsematters.com](http://www.myhorsematters.com).

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### Bring your horse to UEA for Scoping Day

Merial will be hosting a scoping day at UEA on May 22. Anyone interested in signing up for this special opportunity to have a horse scoped with our new borescope camera can do so at no charge. Sedation will be required and will be at our standard service fees. To be eligible the horse cannot be undergoing treatment with Gastrogard or Ulcergard.

This no charge outpatient service will only be available on May 22. Space is limited so sign up a.s.a.p. by calling our office or visiting us on the web.



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