



Sports Medicine, Lameness, Reproduction and Dentistry

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Breeding and Pregnancy Management

This is a brief overview of what to expect when planning to breed your mare and maintain her pregnancy. Our veterinarians look forward to working with you from breeding the mare to delivering a healthy foal.

Some questions to ask before deciding to breed your mare:

- Does my mare possess desirable characteristics to pass on to future generations?
 - Selecting a stallion that balances your mare's weaknesses is paramount.
 - Remember that a good stallion can only do so much and cannot fix everything.
- How much will the foal be worth?
 - Remember breeding can be very expensive, especially if the mare encounters problems along the way. If the foal is to be for resale, get an idea of what it will be worth when it is born to weigh the options.
- Is my mare a good reproductive candidate?
 - As a mare ages, so does her uterus. It is oftentimes easier to get young mares pregnant.
 - If your mare is in her teens and has never had a foal before, we can do a uterine biopsy to determine the health of her uterine lining. Those test results can help us give you realistic odds for the mare maintaining a pregnancy.
 - Sometimes older mares need additional treatments such as uterine lavage to prepare their uterus for pregnancy.
- Can I give my mare the time off she will need?
 - Mares can usually be ridden into their 6th month of gestation (pregnancy).
 - Once the foal is born, they usually remain with the mare for 5-6 months prior to being weaned.
- What is the upkeep once the mare is bred?
 - After breeding, the mare will be checked for pregnancy between 14-18 days after ovulation.
 - If she is pregnant, the embryo will be checked for a heartbeat around 30 days after ovulation.
 - Pregnancies are then checked between 45-60 days and at 5 months of gestation.
 - Mares receive Pneumobort (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccines at months 3 (situation specific), 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation to prevent abortion due to rhinopneumonitis virus.
 - Mares receive pre-foaling vaccinations at 10 months of gestation to ensure the foal receives proper antibodies in the colostrum (first milk). The antibodies in the colostrum will protect the foal from disease for approximately six months.