



The Newborn Foal Fact Sheet

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Normal Behavior:

- Suckle reflex: within 5 minutes of birth
- Sitting sternal within 10 minutes
- Standing up within 1-2 hours
- Nursing within 2-3 hours
- Pass meconium in 6-8 hours or sooner

Physical Examination:

- Temperature: 99-102 F
- Heart rate: 80-120 beats/minute
- Respiratory Rate: 20-40 breaths/minute
- Gums: pink and moist, capillary refill time < 2 seconds
- Pass pasty feces 3-5 times per day (but often hard to see in stall)

Remember to:

- Check IgG in all foals – stall side blood test
- Have vet check ALL foals at 12-24 hours old (the sooner the better)
- Normal IgG = 800 mg/dl or higher
- Dip umbilical stump with dilute Nolvasan 2-3 times in the first day of life

Time to Intervene:

- Retained placenta in mare > 3 hours
- Weak or unable to stand
- Has not nursed within 3-4 hours
- No colostrum or milk from dam
- No meconium passed, bloated or colicky
- Hypothermia (Temp < 99) or fever
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing
- Not nursing well, lethargic, heart or respiratory rates too fast
- Lameness or swollen joint