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Horse Nibbles

Horse Management Newsletter – Volume 29 – January, 2012
From Bourdeaus' and Bushey, Inc – Middlebury, VT
<http://www.bourdeaubrothersofmiddlebury.com>

Join Us at VT Farm Show – Champlain Valley Expo Center Essex, VT

Free Admission and Free Parking Every Day!

January 24th – 26th

Special Pricing on Twine, Bale Wrap and Plastic Products – Early Order and Pallet Pricing

Chick Orders – Order your chicks at the show and receive a coupon for feed and bedding to use when you pick them up.

Potato Orders – Pre-Order your Potatoes at the show at special pricing

Special Pricing on Fencing Supply Pre-Orders – Pre-Order your fencing supplies for the spring to get the best prices of the year and guarantee you get what you need

Sweet Corn and Garden Seed Specials – Start planning you garden today!

Lawn Care – Tips and Specials for this Spring

Wood Pellets – Super Premium Okanagan Wood Pellets and Show Specials on McFeeter's Pellets

Frost Seeding – Order your frost seeding at the show for special pricing and early scheduling

Getting Ready for Foaling Season - Assembling Foaling Kit

Your horse may be due in a few weeks or not for a few months, but now is a good time to make sure you have everything prepared for the big day. If this is your first foaling or you go through this every spring knowing you have your supplies ready to go will help ease some of your concerns.

There are many sites that list what you should have in a foaling kit and a few that sell prepackaged foaling kits. While a prepackaged kit is a bit easier, there is not much in the kit that you probably don't already have or cannot easily be found at your local farm supply store or drug store.

The first thing to start with is a large plastic tote with a locking lid, 10 to 20 gal size will give you plenty of room to fit in all the supplies.

Items to Include in Kit:

- **7% Iodine Solution or Betadine** – dipping navel and/cleaning the mare before foaling
- **Clean towels of different sizes** – smaller ones to help grip the foal's legs if needed and larger ones for catching the foal or cleaning up
- **Co-flex or some type of tail wrap** or bag to wrap the tail before foaling starts
- **Box of disposable gloves**
- **Box of shoulder length OB gloves** (most kits that you order come with one set of both types of gloves, but it is very likely more than one person will need gloves or that you will go through multiple pairs.)
- **Roll of cotton** for washing the mare's udder and vulva before foaling, also useful for cleaning up
- **Sterile Lubricant** – new container of Vaseline or KY Jelly
- **Cord or string** for tying off the navel – suture or clean fishing line
- **Garbage bags** for the placenta – you will only need one for the placenta (your vet may want to look at the placenta to make sure that all of it was expelled), but as with the gloves it is always good to have extra
- **Thermometer**
- **Hemostats or clamps** for the umbilical cord
- **Stainless steel scissors**
- **Clean bucket**

- **2 commercially prepared enemas** – in case the foal is having trouble passing the first manure, CONSULT YOUR VET BEFORE USE!
- **Halter and lead for mare** – again an extra is better than searching
- **Sharp Knife**
- **Watch or small clock**
- **Note pad, pen and pencil**
- **Flash lights with extra batteries** – mares often foal overnight
- **Frozen or commercial colostrum** – in case the mare has none
- **Gentle soap** – Ivory liquid – for washing up
- **Baby bottle with nipple** – regular human baby bottle will work – horse nipples are not large like cows
- **Paper towels, gauze, baby wipes** – your preference, again just good to have extra to clean up or dry things

While it is good to have all of this stuff in a kit for when foaling starts, keeping a flash light, the mare's halter and lead, and your vet's phone number by the stall will be helpful.

One last thing to make sure you have on you is a phone – if your cell phone works in your barn that is great, but if not a portable phone is great, it will be easier to call for any help without having to leave the mare.

Finally, you should check a few times before the foaling date to make sure that the warm water is working in the barn; no one involved is going to want cold water for washing up when the time comes.

Good Luck and Enjoy!

Bourdeaus' and Bushey, Inc is Proud to Introduce:



Cat Food

Cat Stars 18 lbs - \$16.75

Cat Stars 40 lbs - \$33.00

Dog Food

Puppy 40 lbs - \$35.55

Premium Adult 40 lbs - \$33.30

Maintenance 40 lbs - \$24.95

High Energy 40 lbs - \$32.65