Australasian Gypsy Horse Society

Foaling Kit Contents

AGHS have put together some items that may be useful to include in your foaling/first aid kits. This list is not exhaustive, and you may want to discuss this with your vet to ensure you are well prepared.

Foaling first aid kit

- Note pad & pen
- Clock/stopwatch
- Vet wrap
- Cetrigen/Betadine
- Fleet Enemas
- Gloves
- Ph strips
- Umbilical clamps
- Thermometer
- Scissors
- Baling twine
- Paper towels
- Chux
- Towels
- Headlamp/torch
- Lubricant
- Tail wrap
- Twitch
- Gauze/cotton wool
- Razor blades
- Buckets
- Camera
- Sterilised baby bottle with fast flow teats
- Laminated card with vet/emergency ph number

Vet products:
- Bute
- Oxytocin
- Sedative

Inside but on hand

- Refractometer
- Spare batteries
- Foal rug
- Udderly Ezy mare milker
- Spare colostrum
- Hypodermic needles & syringes

Did You Know That...

Foals suckle about 4 times per hour, or up to 105 times daily during the first week of life.

They stay within 1 metre of their mothers up to 85% of the time, rarely venturing more than 5 metres away during the first 2 weeks after birth.

Foals suckle for only 30-40 seconds at a time, taking in 50- 60mL of milk at each drink. The high frequency of suckling has five main benefits:

1. Stimulates the milk flow and volume produced by the mare to develop her lactation.

2. Provides security for the foal by being near and in contact with the mother.

3. Facilitates continuous 'bathing' of the developing digestive tract with IgA immunoglobin to provide surface gut protection against any bacterial contamination.

4. Enables the foal's developing digestive system to function without risk of overload.

5. Allows the mare to imprint on her foal due to sight contact at birth and recognition by odour of her own milk passed in the foal's droppings by 2 days of age.

Keeping the items in a large esky or tool box is a good way to store them ready to be picked up and moved when required. Both are water tight, lightweight and can double as a seat!

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