



THE RIVERS EQUINE VETS



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Our Website

www.theriversequinevets.com.au

Q. What do you call a horse that has a ton of money in the bank?

A . Financially Stable.



Call us when you need us on

Ph 02 6672 3898

Our Facebook Page [click here](#)



We are your local expert when it comes to foal health and development! We can create a plan to ensure they remain happy and healthy as they grow.

The Rivers Equine Vets—September 2021 Newsletter!

Spring is such a nice time of year, the days are longer, warmer and the grass is growing! Foaling is well underway from August through to early the following year. The arrival of the foal is a nervous time for any owner. From the moment the foal stands (usually within 1 hour of birth) to when they start to seek the teat for their first drink (within the first two hours after birth), anxious owners watch as the patient mum cleans and encourages the foal to rise. Foals seem all legs at first, and it must make standing and getting one's balance awkward, but from a shaky start to standing then attempting their first steps, the foal proceeds as nature plans it. Then when they have their first nap (usually within two hours since birth) the pressure is off and everyone can celebrate the beginning of a new life. And that is what makes spring so special. It is the beginning of life, new hopes and future aspirations.

A New Foal: The First Hours Are Vital.

Check that the foal is breathing. Is the foal trying to move, is it lively and aware of its surroundings? Within 1 hour of birth, the foal should attempt to stand and suckle. Check that they pass their first droppings (meconium) within the first few hours and have urinated normally within about 6 hours. The meconium will probably be dark brown to black so don't be alarmed. The mare should welcome the foal without any aggression. Be aware that occasionally they will reject a foal—it is a sad part of life.

The gums of the foal should be a healthy pink colour. Yellow gums are a sign of jaundice. Also check your mare to ensure she is well, and that she has expelled the placenta within 3 hours of foaling. Check your foal is suckling often and that your mare has a full udder. The first few hours are important as both mare and foal adapt to each other. If you have any concerns, please give us a call and we can help.

What If Your Foal is Not Breathing? Firstly, don't panic...

Quietly approach the foaling area and remove the birth sack (amnion) from the foals head. If the foal is breathing, leave the foaling area but observe from a distance.

If the foal is not breathing on its own, tickle its nostril with a piece of grass or straw, or blow into the foal's mouth to stimulate the respiratory reflex. If neither work, try rubbing the foal vigorously, squeezing the ribs or lifting it about a little off the ground and dropping it. These procedures usually shock the little one to initiate breathing. If in doubt please call us and we can guide you further.

Please Note—don't rush to cut the umbilical cord—let the mare or the foal break it as the foal receives blood from the placenta after birth which is highly beneficial to the foals development.

The Rivers Equine Foaling Kit. Although you normally don't need to lend your mare a helping hand with birth, it pays to have everything you may need on hand, just in case.

Our Foaling KIT has been designed to cover all you may need at this delicate moment. Call us on 02 6672 3898 to get your kit so that you can be prepared.

Tip—Introduce your horse to the lush spring grass gradually. Allow the digestive system to adapt by beginning with short periods of grazing on lush grass and gradually increase as they adapt. Continue to offer hay even though the grass is growing, as it provides much needed fibre your horse craves.



Equine Therapy.

The horse can offer an amazing amount of emotional support. The goal of this sort of therapy includes helping people to develop skills such as self regulation, self confidence, and responsibility. It can be intimidating to have a large majestic horse in the therapy class but interacting with the horse builds independence, self esteem, social awareness and much more. Horses are sensitive to behaviour & emotions, and can indicate when the patient is stressed. Working with the horse helps the patient to open up about their emotions.



The Rivers Equine Vets

Dr. Greg Baldwin, Dr. Matt Mackee
Dr. Simone McColgan
Here to help your equine family
Phone 02 6672 3898

Horse Diet & Supplements.

Maintaining a healthy horse depends upon choosing a healthy diet. The food and nutrients provided will greatly affect their overall health. Foliage such as hay or grass is required for daily grazing but adding in extra supplements such as minerals, energy or joint supplements, and coat, mane and tail supplements will provide extranutrients for the working horse. It depends on the level of your horse's daily activity as to the extra supplements that they may require. A racehorse will require high energy grains and oats to build speed and endurance. An older horse that is kept for the occasional ride may only be given minerals to supplement their basic diet of grass and hay. Check with us to ensure your horse has everything that they require in their diet. Each horse has their own unique requirements that will enable them to live a healthy long life.

The Rivers Equine Vets Services.

Diagnostic Services include digital ultrasound, digital radiography, endoscopy and ECG technology to diagnose and treat your horse. It pinpoints the problem so we can then correct it. **Health Services** includes a full range of services in the field. From innovative dental care, lameness evaluations and vital vaccinations, to emergency services and more, we have your horse or donkey covered for care.

Please [click here](#) for more information or call on **02 6672 3898**.

How A Mother & Foal Bond After Birth.

When the mare's waters break and the fluid is expelled, the mare will spend some time smelling the fluid. After the birth, she will again spend time smelling the fluid along with the placenta. This is normal behaviour. Many experts believe that this is how she recognises the foal as hers. The mare will identify the foal with the amniotic fluid as they will smell the same. After Investigating the placenta and fluid, she will move onto the foal and begin to start to lick the foal to clean it up. They usually start at the head and move to the hindquarters. Horses only lick their foals to clean them in the first few hours of their life. This initial touching and smelling is essential for both the mare and foal as it helps them to establish a strong bond between them. After managing to stand, the foal will then nuzzle everywhere except the mare's udder! But they eventually get there and have their first drink which is vital as it contains the immunoglobulins that help to prevent infections in the young foal. If the foal hasn't had a drink in the first two hours of birth, it is an emergency. If the mare rejects the foal, an intervention will be required. Luckily it doesn't happen often, but just be aware so you can step in if needed.



A pasture free from hazards such as holes, rusty farm machinery and loose wire fences is essential for your equine friends.

Please Visit Our Website—Click on the link below.

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