

## Horse News and Views



- To provide guidance to non-veterinarians at equine rescue and retirement facilities, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has developed and published its newest guide - *Care Guidelines for Rescue and Retirement Facilities*. Those involved with equine rescue should contact their veterinarian or the AAEP for a copy of the guide.
- È It is estimated that a mare will produce milk equivalent to 3% of her body weight in early lactation and 2% in late lactation. For a pony mare, these estimates are 4% and 3% respectively. A 1,100-lb. (500-kg.) mare should produce 4 gallons (15 litres) of milk per day for the first three months and 2.5 gallons (10 litres) of milk per day in the last three months prior to weaning. This is the reason why a mare's udder swells to a hard mass, making the mare very uncomfortable, when a foal is weaned. (Ref. Care Guidelines for Rescue and Retirement Facilities. AAEP, 2004).
- È Placentitis (infection of the mare's placenta) is the most common cause of late term abortions and fetal mortality in the first day of life. Most commonly, the bacteria *streptococcus equi* is the causative agent. It ascends through the vagina and invades the cervix and cervical plug, infecting the placenta in the area of the cervical star. Infected placentas will generally appear thickened in the cervical star area. Only a few infected mares will show a vaginal discharge. Refer to *Examining the Mare's Placenta and Keeping Foaling Records* at [www.gov.on.ca/OMAF/english/livestock/horses/facts/placenta.htm](http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAF/english/livestock/horses/facts/placenta.htm) for further details on placenta examination. (Ref. LeBlanc M, Ascending Placentitis: What we know about pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment. 50th Proceedings of the AAEP 2004: 127-143)

For further information contact Dr. Bob Wright (519) 846-3412 or visit our website: <http://www.gov.on.ca/omaf/english/livestock>



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