



## **Time line for first 24h after birth.**

So your mare's giving birth, now what??

### **30 minutes:**

Foal should be out on the ground or making forward progress to be out.

#### **When to call the vet:**

- Foal is coming out in a red placenta or a red bubble is coming out w/o seeing the foal
- Foal not making forward progress to get out
- Foal not in the correct position (front feet first w/ nose between)

### **1 hour:**

Foal should be making good attempts to stand on own and start nursing.  
Dip umbilicus with dilute Novolsan solution.  
Foal should be passing meconium (dark hard feces).  
Mom should be up and may need the placenta tied in on knot so not to step on it.  
Clean udder with warm water before foal nurses

#### **When to call the vet:**

- Foal unable to stand on own
- Foal unable to latch on to the teat and nurse
- Milk coming out foals nose when nursing
- Foal straining to defecate or urinate
- Mare too weak to get up
- Mare has no milk in udder

### **3-5 hours:**

Foal should be getting up a few times an hour to nurse and lay back down to nap.  
Dip umbilicus again.  
Mare's placenta should pass and be intact.  
Foal should be defecating regularly without straining (dark hard feces followed by tan softer feces)  
Mare should have an appetite and be giving Bran Mash meal and hay.

**When to call the vet:**

- Foal not passing meconium
- Foal not getting up to nurse
- Any signs of colic in foal or mare
- Mare not passed placenta or placenta not intact

**8-15 hours:**

Vet should be out to do a full physical on both the mare and foal and an IgG level (snap test) to insure adequate colostrum intake.

A CBC is recommended on the foal to check his white blood cell count.