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# Rogue Valley Equine Hospital

Horse Health News

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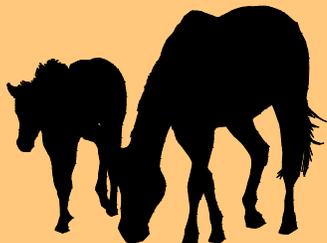
Call us for all your equine health care needs.

541-826-9001

In case of emergency:  
541-826-9001 Ex:32

## Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## 2008 Nutrition Seminar

March 11, 2008

6:00 pm *Hor d'oeuvres*

7:00 pm

**Dr. Stephen Duren, Performance Horse Nutrition**

**Jack Beck, LMF Feeds**

**Topics: Sport Horse Nutrition**

**The Carbohydrate Nightmare**

Location: Jackson County Expo

Padgham Pavilion

## Get Your Mare Ready For Breeding Season!

Having your mare conceive on her first cycle is everyone's hope during breeding season. Unfortunately, less than fifty percent of mares become pregnant on their first breeding each year. The good news is that there are several factors that we can control to optimize our broodmares' chances of conceiving.

***Get Your Mare Under Lights;*** Mares bred early in the breeding season frequently do not cycle well due to the fact that equines are 'long day breeders' and are much less fertile during the winter months. Simply using a timer and a light to add three hours of light to the normal daylight hours will cause the mare to cycle well much earlier in the year. Enough light to read a newspaper easily anywhere in the stall will do.

***Nutrition:*** Being overly fat or thin is not healthy for any horse. Broodmares ideally should be in good condition and on a well balanced diet that meets their needs for energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. In our area, the trace mineral Selenium is often deficient in our forages (hay and pasture) and grains. *Selenium is critical to fertility in mares* and needs to be supplemented at proper levels. Salt blocks containing selenium are not adequate for most mares. It is a good idea to get your mare's whole blood selenium level tested before breeding her.

***Dentistry, Deworming and Vaccinating:*** Take care of these basic health maintenance needs before breeding your mare. Most vaccines should not be given to mares in early pregnancy, and neglecting them could cause your mare's immunity to lapse during a critical period. It is especially important to vaccinate mares being sent to breeding farms to prevent them from contracting or transmitting diseases from other horses.

***Conformation:*** Many mares, especially thin or older mares, have poor conformation of the vulva which allows contamination of the birth canal.

## **Reproductive Services Offered by RVEH**

### Mares:

- Artificial Insemination.
- Per-cycle 'Chute Fee' package pricing using shipped chilled or frozen semen on mares bred at our Reproduction Center. Leave your mare with us, we'll take care of the rest.
- Foaling: Mares are monitored in our large foaling stalls using milk testing, Foal Alert monitors and video surveillance. Let your valuable mare foal with us!
- Embryo Transfer
- Fertility evaluations.

### Stallions:

- Phantom training.
- Stallion collection.
- Semen processing.
- Semen shipping.
- Semen freezing.
- Fertility evaluations.

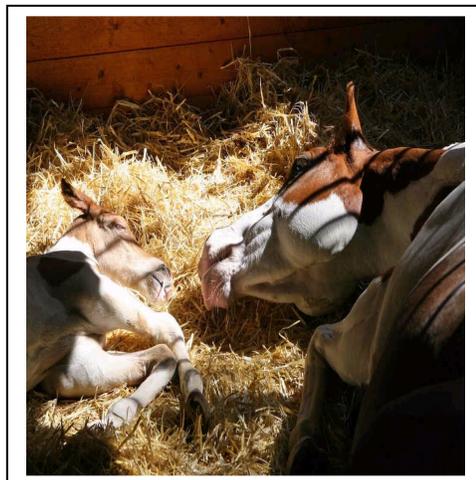
Vulvas that are tilted more than 15 degrees from vertical, or that are not well sealed should be sutured together in what is called an episiotomy or Caslicks procedure. This simple technique is the most effective way to improve the fertility of older broodmares.

## **Prefoaling Checklist For Broodmares**

- Vaccinate pregnant broodmares against EHV-1 (abortive Rhinovirus) in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> months of gestation.
- Deworm broodmares regularly (every 2 to 3 months) using dewormers considered safe for pregnant mares (Ivermectin, Strongid, etc.)
- 4 to 6 weeks before the due date vaccinate for Tetanus, E. and W. Encephalitis, Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis, Potomac Horse Fever, and West Nile. This increases the level of protective antibodies passed to the foal in the colostrum.
- At 4 to 6 weeks before the due date, any mares that have had a Caslicks procedure should be opened to prevent tearing of the vulva during delivery.
- Let the mare settle in to the area you intend to let her foal in at least a month ahead of her due date.
- Foal predictor kits can be very helpful in helping you to predict the night your mare is likely to foal. The ones based on the calcium ion content of the mare's milk are best.
- Have a clean bucket, a good flashlight, disinfectant (tamed iodine or chlorhexidine), towels, a small garbage sack for the placenta and your veterinarian's telephone number handy.

Check our website at [rveh.com](http://rveh.com) for more information on foaling and monitoring the newborn foal.

It's time to bring in your New Foal Photos!



*Last Years Foal Contest Winner!*

