

Maintaining The Pregnant Mare

Once your mare is pregnant, you will want to do everything you can to keep her that way. Establish a good preventative care schedule and stick to it. Vaccinations and deworming are especially important for pregnant mares, but recommendations will vary depending on which diseases and parasites your mare is likely to be exposed to. Your veterinarian is a useful resource for developing a preventive care program specific to your mare's needs.

Nutrition and exercise requirements for mares in the first two trimesters are similar to what they need before they were pregnant, so you usually only need to make changes later in pregnancy. If your mare is used to being ridden, it is perfectly reasonable to continue riding, and even competing on her through the first two trimesters of pregnancy. Having your pregnant mares checked occasionally to make sure they are still pregnant is a good idea so that you can be aware of, and take steps to mitigate, pregnancy loss.

Mares can abort for many reasons, and the more information you have about when the loss happened the more you can narrow down the plausible causes. This also gives you a head start on planning for re-breed contracts as well as making sure your mare has the best chance to carry to term next year.

Another thing to consider is that some medications are safe for pregnant mares, while some are not. Many medications are safe but are not labeled for pregnant mares simply due to the expense and difficulty of doing the testing required to get the label, but if in doubt make sure to check with your veterinarian.