



Our vision is to deliver superior animal health management solutions for our patients while providing value to our clients, a rewarding working experience for our practice team and support for our community

Our team is committed to delivering the highest quality of veterinary medicine and exceptional customer service with integrity, compassion and accountability. We strive to keep up to date with advances in veterinary medicine that will enable us to stay leaders in the deliverance of high quality veterinary services to our clients and their animals.

Welcome Spring!

The change of season may also signal the start of newborns in the barn!

Spring is the new buzzword! As we welcome the change of the season, we reflect on the many positive events that took place over the 2013-2014 winter. The staff at CVS have received valuable feedback from our successful equine and bovine information sessions. Future topics have been discussed, and we look forward to hosting a beef and small ruminant session later this year. If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to forward them to canningtonvet@hotmail.com.



We hope you find the enclosed information relative and a great refresher for helping you to deal with what you may be experiencing in your barn!

Best of luck with your lambing, foaling and calving season!

Sincerely,

The CVS Team



Inside

Equine *Help Your Mare Have a Safe Delivery.*

Bovine *Have you had your annual Health Risk Assessment performed?*

Small Ruminant *Assisting the Ewe at Lambing.*

Cattle Health and Veterinary Medicine Use Declaration

Effective May 1, 2013, dairy farmers licensed to produce and market milk in Ontario are required to complete the Cattle Health and Veterinary Medicine Use Declaration form annually.

Ontario Regulation 761 (the Milk Act) has been amended to require dairy farmers and their herd veterinarian attest that animal health is satisfactory, veterinary drugs are used appropriately and that a Vet-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) exists. The regulatory change was required to ensure dairy products and food products containing dairy ingredients could continue to be exported from Ontario herds.

The fulfillment of the requirement will be administered as part of the Grade A inspection process. The regulation amendment, the Cattle Health Risk Assessment and the Declaration follow.

To ensure the regulatory requirement is satisfied, it is recommended that you and your veterinarian examine the herd and complete the Cattle Health Risk Assessment prior to you and the veterinarian signing the Declaration.



An Animal Health Risk Assessment involves an evaluation of all livestock enterprises on your farm for general health and to review the use of drugs (pharmaceuticals and biological) in each area. This is **MANDATORY**.

It can also be done through a RAMP (Risk Assessment and Management Plan), as we did with the Johnes Program, which should take no longer than one hour in most cases. This is a **RECOMMENDED** option, as it also provides health and management recommendations that can improve the general health of animals, especially young calves, on your farm.

Whichever method is chosen, the assessment does take time. In order to minimize any costs that are incurred for the Health Assessment and signing of the Declaration, it should be incorporated into a regularly scheduled Herd Health Visit or other Farm Call.

Remember, this is an **ANNUAL** assessment that will need to be done **ON** or **BEFORE** the anniversary of your initial assessment (which is your CQM Validation Date)



HELPING YOUR MARE TO HAVE A SAFE DELIVERY.

If your mare has made it through 11 months of pregnancy, you're almost home free. Labor and delivery, while momentous, are generally uneventful. In most cases, you will simply need to be a quiet observer – if, that is, you are lucky enough to witness the birth. Mares seem to prefer to foal at night in privacy, and apparently have some control over their delivery. Because most mares foal without difficulty, it is usually best to allow the mare to foal undisturbed and unassisted.

What you can do, however, is prepare your mare for a safe and successful delivery. Follow these suggestions from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) to help the new mother and baby get off to a great start:

- ✓ Write down your veterinarian's phone number well in advance of the birth and keep it by all phones.
- ✓ Keep a watch or clock on hand so you can time each stage of labor. When you're worried or anxious, your perception of time becomes distorted. The watch will help you keep accurate track of the mare's progress during labor.
- ✓ Wrap the mare's tail with a clean wrap when you observe the first stage of labor. Be sure that the wrap is not applied too tightly or left on too long, as it can cut off circulation and permanently damage the tail.
- ✓ Wash the mare's vulva and hindquarters with a mild soap and rinse thoroughly.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect the stall area as thoroughly as possible and provide adequate bedding.

If a mare is taking longer than 30 minutes to deliver the foal, call your veterinarian immediately.

For more information on labor and delivery and postpartum care for the mare and foal, ask your veterinarian!

Cited with permission from aaep.org



ASSISTING THE EWE AT LAMBING

In a normal lambing, there are three distinct stages:

- 1) **Dilation of the cervix**
- 2) **Expulsion of the lamb**
- 3) **Expulsion of the afterbirth**

A normal delivery usually takes 5 hours from the start of cervical dilation to the delivery of the lamb, 4 hours for the dilation of the cervix and 1 hour for the actual delivery. The first 4 hours often go unnoticed.

Signs of an Abnormal Delivery:

If the ewe:

- Continues to strain, but there is no sign of the waterbags
- continues to strain an hour after the rupture of the waterbags but there is no sign of a lamb
- If the lamb appears to be wedged in the birth canal
- if there is an abnormal presentation, a leg back, head back etc., assistance may be needed.

Any delay in assistance could mean the difference between a live and dead lamb. Be sure to call your veterinarian!



Restocking your lambing kit...

The essentials of this kit are:

- soap
- -disinfectant
- -obstetrical lubricant
- sterile syringes – 10 ml and 1 ml
- needles of sizes suitable for the ewe and the lamb
- antibiotics and Vitamin E/selenium injections
- navel disinfectant iodine based
- clean pail, towels or cloths

***Colostrum and milk replacer



Check that the lamb is breathing; its nostrils are clear of mucous and are not covered by any uterine membrane. At this time the lamb's navel should be disinfected.

Aftercare of the lamb...

A healthy lamb struggles to its feet soon after birth and starts to nurse its dam. Lambs, weak from a protracted delivery should be helped to nurse, or given up to 250 ml of colostrum by stomach tube. This first nursing is critical as the colostrum contains antibodies to give the lamb immediate protection against infectious agents common to the flock. All lambs should nurse or be tube fed colostrum within 6 - 8 hours of birth. In the first 24 hours of life, each lamb should receive about one litre of colostrum.

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