

Good Horsekeeping Tips

The Dummy Foal

By Lynn Gullede, DVM

This information is of vital importance if you are a breeder. I'm a feline veterinarian and I'm still learning about these little horses. One of our mares foaled unattended (at least a month early which was why the mare wasn't under camera). When we found the filly around 5 a.m. that morning, she was running around, acting seemingly normal, but when we picked her up, watery diarrhea gushed out. A little later when I went back to check on her, she was continuing to have diarrhea along with almost constant hiccups, sneezing and coughing. I had yet to see her nurse, so I tried to get her to but she wouldn't. I milked the mare and tried to force feed her, but she seemed to have difficulty swallowing. I continued to force feed her every hour and gave her Bio-sponge and Kaopectate as well. She continued to get weaker and didn't want to nurse. Her dam was not too interested in her either. The filly collapsed that afternoon and was shaking and having the hiccups. Karo syrup got her back up and she seemed much better. The following morning she was more active in the morning



NOTE to BREEDERS:



Save this link, maybe even put it with your foaling supplies so you don't forget about it like I and my equine veterinarian did. I will do this now with any foal that is not

nursing within the first few hours. It will do no harm. Big thanks to Yvette Mooney and Michael Mooney-Wells who are always willing to help and support my crazy ideas. Looking back, I might have responded differently to this filly's baffling symptoms. The most important message I can relay to you would be to act as your own advocate. Don't be afraid to mention this to your veterinarian. As with any "new" technique, there will always be those who don't believe in it or have not heard of it. But I strongly feel it saved my filly's life.

You may know the term "dummy foal" but have you heard of a Madigan Foal Squeeze? Dr. John Madigan theorized that by artificially recreating the foal being squeezed through the birth canal. The foal starts nursing as normal and the 'dummy foal' syndrome appears to disappear. Know the signs and learn the step by step foal squeeze procedure.

<http://www.equineneonatalmanual.com/#!foalsqueezing/c1r2z>



but couldn't nurse and watery diarrhea continued. She collapsed again that afternoon and was almost unresponsive. Once again Karo syrup was given and we called my equine vet. I thought we would have to euthanize her if she would even live through the next few hours. The vet suggested the filly might be showing symptoms of a dummy foal syndrome. I had been so focused on the diarrhea and respiratory signs that I hadn't really considered that. After I got off the phone, I remembered a post by Julie Good about the Madigan Foal Squeeze

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technique for dummy foals. I found the post on Facebook. We got a rope, took the laptop into the stall, and performed it. When the rope was removed the filly got up from her trance, stretched, and went over to her dam who had stood totally still for the 20-minute procedure. As soon as the baby stood, the



mare went back to eating her hay and the foal started nursing, just like Dr. Madigan said she would do! No hiccups, sneezing or coughing since. It was truly a miracle. I've never seen anything like it. I called the vet to relay the story and she said she didn't even think to mention this technique. So this cat veterinarian saved the day! Even though I milked the mare and force fed her numerous times during the critical period, we couldn't be sure she got the colostrums. But she appeared to be a normal, happy, healthy baby after the technique.

A Happy Ending

Now, six months later the filly is happy and healthy. We named her, Timeless I'm No Dummy, aka. Madigan and she continues to thrive. The takeaway message of this is, no matter what other clinical signs are being exhibited (in our case, nonstop hiccups, coughing, sneezing, and watery diarrhea) if a foal is not suckling normally, consider it may have foal maladjustment syndrome (dummy



foal). All of my foal's symptoms resolved after the procedure. I can't find any references that explain how all of this is related. I am a feline veterinarian and I was consulting with my equine veterinarian during and after this procedure.

I want to reiterate, you should always consult with your veterinarian as you should always seek veterinary care first. But it is in the foal's best interest to be an informed breeder. And be ready for anything! ➡

Farm Prefix RESERVATIONS

The following Standing Rule was passed by the AMHA Board of Directors at the 2007 Annual Meeting:

PREFIX/SUFFIX APPLICATIONS

All new prefix/suffix applications will be reviewed by the Registration Department for deceptive similarities. The prefix/suffix will be placed in the *Miniature Horse World* for one issue and on the AMHA website for 120 days prior to approval.

The Registration Department will search for current prefix which are similar to the applied prefix and provide this information to the Board. The Board of Directors will review and approve all prefix/suffix applications after the 120 days and before the applicants can use the prefix.

New registrations requesting the reserved Farm Prefix will be issued per normal procedure; however if the Farm Prefix name is denied for any reason, AMHA reserves the right to change the horse name. You will be contacted as soon as possible after the 120 day waiting period regarding any name changes.

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