

SUNGLADE RANCH LTD *HOME OF "CHICS IN THE MALE"

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Care of Your Pregnant Mare

My staff have worked very hard to take the very best care of your mare during her stay and insure that she is placed on a daily teasing schedule, bred at the right time, settled and confirmed pregnant before you take her home. Or in the case of shipped semen, we have collected and cooled the highest quality sample in our own lab at the ranch and rushed to the airport/depot to get it to you in the top condition and the least amount of time.

Nothing is more depressing to you as the mare owner and to us here at Sunglade when your mare comes up open and fails to produce that wonderful "Bubba Baby" we all have been anticipating. Although I still have a Live Foal Guarantee (many stallion owners do not as the stallion has fulfilled his duty impregnating the mare), that guarantee only covers one return breeding the following year. Besides costing you some more money in the service fee and mare care, this doubles our workload and the stress on *Chics In The Male*, as we have to start all over again.

There are many things that you, as the mare owner, can do to help insure a healthy delivery of beautiful foal:

Firstly, confirmation of pregnancy. We have sent your mare home with a picture of her new baby. However, it is a good idea to have her checked 15 to 18 days after her last breeding date to check for twins if Sunglade has checked her before that. Then 25 to 35 days after the last breeding date, check for fetal heartbeat or possible fetal loss. If you do this, you may have time for a rebreed on the same year if needed. Then the following recommendations are very important:

- **Nutrition.** I recommend that you feed a good vitamin and mineral supplement with just enough grain as a top dressing besides good forage (we like a grass/alfalfa mix hay with no fescue) and plenty of fresh water (preferably not ice cold in the winter). Sunglade Ranch markets a private label supplement that has some special ingredients not yet available in Canada. This vitamin and mineral supplement also stimulates digestion and our horses are in excellent health. Remember, she will really need more good feed and lots of fresh water when she is nursing.
- **Teeth.** Make sure your mare's teeth are floated before she is bred. The veterinarian will want to tranquilize her and does not like to medicate pregnant mares.
- **Vaccinations.** Your mare had to have her regular shots before coming to Sunglade Ranch. Now she

must be protected against viral infections that can cause abortion. Give Pneumabort K injections at 5, 7 and 9 months after confirming pregnancy by palpation. If your mare has never had Pneumabort before, you should start at 3 months. Four to six weeks before foaling, she should have all her spring vaccinations such as tetanus and flu.

- **Worming.** Your mare should be on a regular program of either daily wormer or every 8 weeks with oral paste or liquid. Do not trust "Quest" or ivermectin for cattle. If she is not on daily wormer, worm her the day of foaling to prevent transfer of threadworms through the milk to the foal.
- **Progesterone testing.** The number one reason besides infection for fetal death is low progesterone (pregnancy hormone) in the mare's blood. **PLEASE READ** the attached information on checking your mare. This is a very common problem especially in these good, older mares that we desperately do not want to lose a year on.

I hope this has been helpful to you. You can get more information from a knowledgeable veterinarian, books, the Internet and magazine articles. More than anything, we want you to have a beautiful **Chics In The Male** offspring to raise and enjoy. I want to thank you for your confidence in my breeding program here at Sunglade Ranch Ltd. I trust that the experience has been a positive one and that you will consider coming back to **Chics In The Male** and recommending us to your colleagues and friends.

Sincerely,

B.Lynne Hoff Owner