

Fit mares, healthy foals

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Every breeder wants a healthy foal and ideally every year. Many factors, such as cycle problems, resorption, but also feeding-related problems during pregnancy, birth, or lactation can negatively influence the breeding success.



Successful breeding needs mares in a good general condition!

Pregnancy and also the production of milk (so-called lactation) mean absolute top performance for mares, comparable to a sport horse! They must be able to cope with these performances in terms of health. Mares that can no longer be ridden due to injury, for example, are not automatically suitable for breeding. They should be examined in advance, just like older mares. Particular attention should be paid to body weight and body condition. A broodmare should ideally have a BCS (Body Condition Score) of 5 to 6.

If she is too thin (BCS < 5), fertility decreases. These mares have to maintain their maintenance metabolism and have no energy left to develop a follicle, for example. Malnutrition can lead to embryo resorption. If she is too fat (BCS > 6), there is a risk of cycle disorders. The mare does not show a clear heat or does not become pregnant in spite of several insemination attempts.

Mares in foal have high nutritional requirements!

Even the early phase of pregnancy requires a close look at the mineral, trace element and vitamin supply. For example, vitamin E and β -carotene are important for the production of the hormone progesterone and ensure the survival of the embryo.

There is little change in protein and energy requirements at the beginning of pregnancy. Sufficient basic feed, such as grass and hay, can often cover the requirements if the quality is good. However, this changes drastically from the seventh month of pregnancy. The energy requirement increases by 50%, the protein requirement doubles, and the calcium and phosphorus requirement is even tripled.

The hot phase begins (ninth to eleventh month)

It is not until the last phase of pregnancy that the foal gains a lot of body mass. Up to 80% of the birth weight is put on

now. Therefore, the protein and energy requirements increase drastically.

Now the rule is: "quality before quantity", which means feeding protein of good quality with high levels of essential amino acids such as lysine or methionine. Essential, because they have to be supplied with the feed. The body cannot produce them itself.

Equally important is the supply of minerals, vitamins, and trace elements. They are needed for the formation of bones, ligaments, and tendons. But they are also enriched in the colostrum, for example, and thus improve the colostrum quality and so the foal's immune defence. At the end of pregnancy, the unborn foal also stores nutrients such as copper in the liver. Mare milk is very low in copper, which means that the foal needs an endogenous reserve until it can absorb copper itself through foal feed. Copper has an influence on the bone density of the foal, among other things. A deficiency can lead to OCD (osteochondrosis dissecans) later on. Lay the foundation for a stable skeleton and strong immune system of the foal by feeding the mother already now!

Digestion is very susceptible to disruption before and after birth

The last weeks of pregnancy are fraught with many risks. The appetite decreases. Due to the foal's weight, the feed intake capacity is limited. The mare absorbs less nutrients and moves more and more sluggishly, which can lead to a decrease in intestinal activity, among other things. The risk of digestive disorders, especially the risk of a colic, increases. This endangers not only the life of the mare, but also that of the foal.

Now watch the mare closely! Make sure she gets enough nutritious and quality feed! Prevent digestive disorders! The mare should be well prepared and "fit" for the birth, otherwise there is a risk of heavy birth, loss of the foal or the mare during birth, lack of milk, metabolic stress, or hormonal disorders later on.



Milk production! High performance sport for the mare

In the first three months, the milk yield increases steadily to up to 25 l per day. The need for protein, energy, calcium, and phosphorus increases accordingly. Milk quantity and quality are directly influenced by the daily feeding of the mare. If there is not enough, less is produced and the mare goes to her body reserves. If there is an undersupply, she mobilizes calcium from her own skeleton, for example, in order to continue supplying the foal with milk. In the long run, the mare's bone stability decreases. Lactation is an enormous strain on the mare. She has to care for the foal and at the same time she is often expected to give birth again. Often the mares lose weight, do not come into heat, do not become pregnant, or resorb. In the worst case, the mare remains empty, i.e., there is no foal the next year. From an economic point of view, this is a total loss.

Lay the foundation now for a healthy foal!

Everything that is missed in foal rearing can never be made up for later! By feeding the mother mare according to her needs, which can ideally supply the foetus and later the foal with milk, you lay the foundation for a later healthy riding horse!

Leiber YeaFi®: unique brewers' yeast fibre products!

Brewers' yeast has a high natural content of valuable nutrients and active ingredients such as protein, essential amino acids, folic acid, niacin, biotin, selenium, and copper. In addition, brewers' yeast can, among other things, promote body condition, digestion, appetite, basic food intake, and fertility!

On farms in Germany and Poland, the results included better body condition (BCS), improved coat and hoof quality, reduced digestive disorders such as colics, less resorptions in the embryonic stage, and fewer inseminations per pregnancy after administration of Leiber YeaFi® BT.



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