



FIRST FOAL CHECK

The Normal Foal

- Standing in the first hour of life
- Nursing from mare in the first 1-2 hours of life
- Meconium (first hard faeces) passed within first 12 hours and replaced by soft, pasty yellow 'milk' faeces
- Urinate in first 12 hours of life

The first foal check

- It is strongly recommended that foals are examined in the first 18-36 hours of life
- Foals rely on the transfer of antibodies in colostrum (the mare's first milk) to form adequate immunity in the first three months of life. Failure of this passive transfer leaves foals at risk of sepsis which can cause fatality. A simple blood test assesses the antibody levels, and steps can be taken to give protection if needed.
- Foals will also be checked for any congenital abnormalities, limb conformation, umbilical check and full body system examination.
- The placenta should be passed in full within 3 hours. It is recommended that this is kept for assessment to ensure it has all been passed.
- During the consultation the mare will also be assessed

If you have any concerns about your mare or foal, or to discuss the routine first foal check, contact House & Jackson to speak to one of the team, call us on 01277 823808