

DVD provides excellent overview of parturition in the mare...

FOAL IN MARE

Insights inside the foaling mare

4th edition

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(order at foalinmare.com)

Whilst the majority of foalings occur quickly and without significant problems, when they do go wrong they usually require rapid and skilled intervention to avoid the loss of mare and/or foal. It is difficult to describe normal and abnormal parturition in the horse in print and mares are notoriously difficult to observe during foaling, so a high-quality video teaching aid that illustrates this subject in a clear and aesthetically-pleasing fashion is a valuable resource.

Foal in Mare – insights inside the foaling mare is just such a product. Edited by Jan Govaere, Katrien Martens and Aart de Kruif of the University of Ghent and co-edited by Bert van der Weijden and Tom Stout of the University of Utrecht, Grant Frazer of Ohio State University and Jean-François Bruyas of the University of Nantes, this DVD provides an excellent overview of parturition in the mare as well as common causes of dystocia in this species.

The DVD, which is about an hour in length in total and can be viewed in a variety of languages, is divided into a number of sections: foetal development, the three stages of parturition, dystocia and a miscellaneous group of foaling-associated conditions. Each one is demonstrated with high-quality and visually very pleasing, three-dimensional animations accompanied by a clear and concise narrative. There are also movies of a normal equine parturition and a caesarean section and, if the latter is a little on the short side, the former is beautifully

produced and certainly the next best thing to seeing the event in real life.

The section on foetal development is somewhat misleading as it deals essentially with growth rates in late pregnancy and preparations for parturition rather than the intricacies of earlier foetal development. However, this is a small criticism of an excellent piece of work. All of the sections are presented in relatively short pieces, each one to the point and refreshingly free from extraneous comment. My only other criticisms of this admirable teaching resource are very minor. Navigation through the menus could be a little more straightforward, although it is certainly not difficult and, whilst the narration is clear and well-spoken, it would have been nice to have the correct pronunciation for one or two fairly common terms, such as “sacral”.

I would say that the ideal audience for this DVD is the veterinary student or new veterinary graduate, who should have the background knowledge that is frequently assumed in the narration. It may be a little light on content for the more experienced veterinarian, but it would be of great interest to the more knowledgeable and inquisitive mare owner or stud groom. I understand that the group who were responsible for this DVD are to follow it up with one on rectal and ultrasonographic examination of the mare. I eagerly await the result.

– Dr Colin Roberts

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