

SHOBA

Scoop

Volume XXI Issue Spring 2026





The SHOBA Scoop
Volume XXI Issue 2
Spring 2026

The SHOBA Scoop is published four times a year. To receive a subscription for the publication, a membership to SHOBA is required at the rate of \$50 per year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. A membership application can be downloaded from the website at www.SHOBAonline.com under the forms and fees tab. Information about SHOBA can be found on the website or by calling 706-969-6224.

Members are encouraged to send notices of SHOBA related activities, upcoming trail rides, fundraisers, and pictures that they would like to be included in the Scoop. Let us know what you are doing! If you are interested in contributing a story, trail ride info, picture, poem, letter to the editor, or campfire recipe, send your information to 943 Skitts Mountain Road Cleveland, GA 30528, info@SHOBAonline.com or pm to

SHOBA is owned and managed by Ben and Beth Cantrell.

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SHOBA FEES

Membership	\$50
Registration	\$50
DNA Testing	\$50
Coat Color Test	\$30
Transfer of Ownership	\$25
Duplicate Certificate	\$25
Alteration of Certificate	\$25
Stallion Ad	\$50

Words from the Editors

Hello Everybody!

Isn't this weather beautiful! It may be a little dry, but the grass is green, and growing and the trees are filling in nicely!

It's foaling and breeding season again, my favorite time of year! The wide bodied mares are about ready to deliver, and the foals must be anxious to get their freedom. But the stallions need our attention as well, as the back page article indicates.

Healthy mares and stallions make healthy babies! And healthy babies make us all happy! The next issue will full of the babies to be born within the next few months, so get out those phones and get some good pictures and let's all do a little Baby Braggin'!

If you would like your breeding program featured in the Scoop, give me a call, send a text, or write me an email. I always love to help y'all get the word out!

*Hope to see y'all soon,
Ben and Beth Cantrell*

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SHOBA?

Ist Quarter

Horses Registered 24

Horses Transferred 4

New or Renewed Members 24



SHOBA's number one priority is to preserve and promote the naturally gaited single-footing horse. SHOBA will do this by providing, to the best of our ability, a strict gait performance horse registry that is backed up with equine DNA, which provides an accurate, scientific ancestry for each registered horse.

SHOBA recognizes that the single-footing horse is as unique as its uncompromised four beat lateral gait. We are very proud of the single-footing horse and hope to see them excel on the trails and in the show rings. Our intention is to do nothing to jeopardize the integrity of the single-footing horse in anything we do or support.

SHOBA believes that we are blessed with the unique single-footing horse to preserve, promote, enjoy, and provide a means of fellowship with other horse riders. We will promote family oriented trail rides full of fellowship, good times, and horse riding with these wonderfully fast, smooth, single-footing horses to support this belief.

**Front Page Color: Buckskin Colt born January 31, 2026,
by Dapple Baron and out of Juliet. Owned by Carlos
Sanchez of Lakeland, Florida**



CAMPFIRE RECIPE



Ingredients

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds baby potatoes thinly sliced

2 teaspoons olive oil

1 tablespoon seasoned salt

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon black pepper

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup bacon bits

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

1 cup barbecue sauce divided

sliced green onions for garnish

4 tablespoons sour cream

Directions

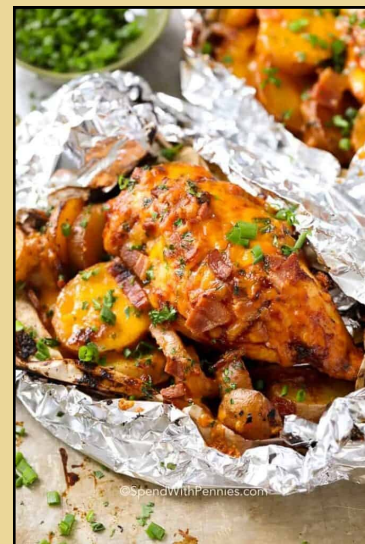
Prepare foil packets. Lay out 4 large pieces of heavy duty foil then top each with a large piece of parchment paper (or spray with non stick spray).

Place equal amounts of sliced potatoes and onions in the middle of each packet. Drizzle with oil and sprinkle with seasoning salt and pepper. Place a chicken breast on top of potatoes. Brush each side of each chicken breast with barbecue sauce.

Wrap up each foil packet by bringing two sides together and rolling it up. Then roll up each open end to seal the packet.

Place on hot grill and cook (potatoes down) for about 25 minutes or until potatoes are tender and chicken is cooked through

Cut open packet, brush chicken with more barbecue sauce if desired and top with cheddar cheese and bacon bits. Place back on grill (do not reseal) to melt about 5 minutes. Garnish with sour cream and chives.



Conditioning Your Horse For Warm Weather Riding

To condition your horse for warm weather riding, focus on gradual acclimatization, hydration, and fitness.

Gradual Acclimation:

Start with shorter rides in the heat, gradually increasing duration and intensity.

Allow your horse to adjust to higher temperatures over 1-2 weeks.

Hydration

Ensure your horse has constant access to fresh water.

Offer electrolytes to replenish lost minerals, especially after intense workouts.

Incorporate a mix of aerobic and strength training exercises.

Focus on building stamina with longer, slower rides before increasing speed.

Use cool water baths or sponge your horse after rides.

Provide shade and fans in the stable to help regulate body temperature.

Fitness

Watch for signs of heat stress, such as excessive sweating, rapid breathing, or lethargy.

Ensure a balanced diet that supports energy needs, particularly in hot weather.

Consider feeding smaller, more frequent meals to aid digestion and energy levels.



Signs of Overheating or Tying Up

Overheating, also known as heat stress or heat exhaustion, can pose serious health risks to a horse, even leading to life-threatening conditions if not addressed promptly. Knowing the signs of an overheated horse is crucial for all horse owners, riders, and caretakers to ensure the animal's well-being. So here are some key indicators that your horse might be overheating.

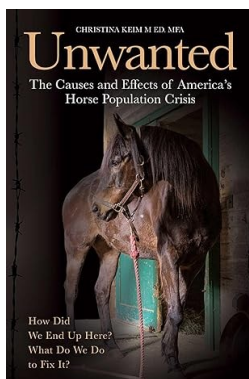
One of the first signs of overheating in horses is rapid, heavy breathing. While an increased breathing rate is normal after physical activity, an overheated horse will continue to breathe heavily for an extended period, even after resting. This is the horse's way of trying to cool down by expelling excess heat through its respiratory system. If you notice that your horse's breathing doesn't slow down after several minutes of rest or if it's struggling to catch its breath, this could be a sign of heat stress.

Sweating is a horse's natural mechanism for cooling itself down, but excessive sweating can indicate overheating. You may notice large amounts of sweat, especially in areas such as the neck, chest, flanks, and behind the ears. In some cases, an overheated horse may even stop sweating, which is a critical warning sign. If your horse is sweating profusely or has suddenly stopped sweating despite high temperatures or activity, it's time to take action.

A horse's heart rate typically increases with exercise, but in an overheated horse, the heart rate remains elevated long after the activity has stopped. You can check your horse's heart rate by placing your fingers under the jaw or at the horse's girth area. A resting heart rate that stays above 60 beats per minute for more than 10 minutes is cause for concern.

Overheated horses often become lethargic and may appear weak or disoriented. They might be slow to respond to commands, stumble, or have difficulty standing. If your horse seems unusually tired or is moving sluggishly, especially after exertion in hot conditions, this is a potential sign of overheating.

Editor's Choice: Book



In **Unwanted: The Causes and Effects of America's Horse Population Crisis**, equestrian journalist and lifelong horsewoman Christina Keim delivers a compassionate, fact-based investigation into one of the most complex and divisive issues facing the equine world today. Every year, tens of thousands of horses—racehorses past their prime, foals who didn't meet expectations, elderly Amish cart horses, and backyard companions—become “unwanted.” Their stories differ, but their fate is often the same: auction houses, neglect, or slaughter pipelines leading to Canada, Mexico, and

With firsthand reporting and poignant storytelling, Keim takes readers to the front lines of the crisis: livestock auctions, rescue operations, and therapy centers where horses get a second chance. She interviews veterinarians, shelter leaders, lawmakers, and welfare advocates to separate myth from reality, challenging us to examine the cultural and economic forces behind overbreeding, poor rehoming practices, and widespread resource shortages. Most of all, she amplifies the voices of those working tirelessly to reshape how we view and care for these extraordinary animals.

Inside you'll discover:

- Real-world insights from rescues, auctions, and equine therapy centers across the U.S.
- The truth behind the slaughter pipeline—and the horses who fall into it
- The devastating toll of overbreeding and economic neglect
- Interviews with experts and advocates on the front lines of equine welfare
- A compelling call to reimagine the horse's role in modern America

Any horse, but for a change in circumstance, can become unwanted. This is their story—and ours.

REMEMBER THESE!

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. If you became a new or renewing member after October 15, your fee includes membership for the next year.

Name changes are allowed only if the horse has never had offspring.

Always return the original certificate with the Alteration of Certificate form and fee. There is a one day turn around if received on a business day.

Always return the original certificate with a Request for Transfer along with the Transfer Form and fee. There is a one day turn around if received on a business day.

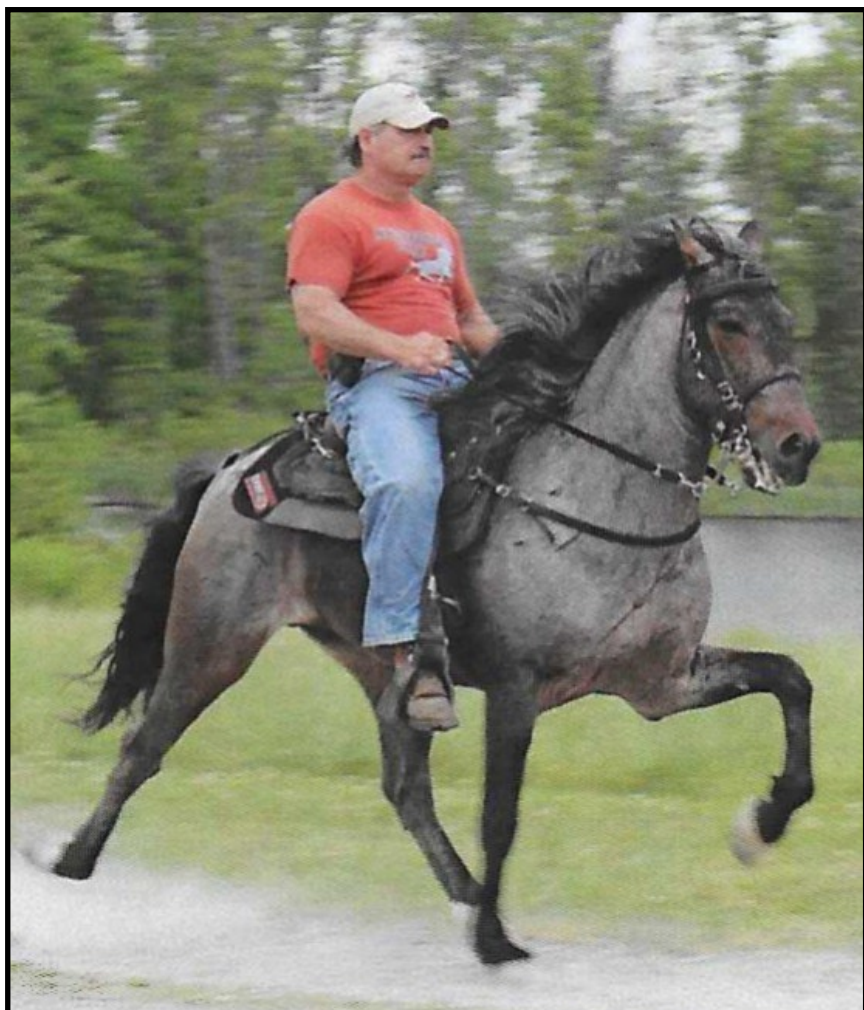
Fees paid online include a 5% fee. These fees are taken directly out of the paid amount by PayPal or Square. Cash and checks are gladly accepted.

Horse Quote of the Quarter

Trust your horse's instincts; they're wiser than you think.

Unknown

SHOBA FLASHBACK!



Robert Swafford on Mack Attack's Smokin' TKO from the Spring 2016 issue of the *SHOBA Scoop*



ANVIL TALK



The Importance of Correct Hoof Angles

Hoof angles refer to the angle formed between the ground and the front wall of the hoof. Typically, this angle ranges between 48 and 55 degrees, though slight variations can occur depending on breed, conformation, and the horse's specific usage. The front hooves generally have a steeper angle than the hind hooves, which helps balance the horse's biomechanics.

The hoof angles of a horse's feet play a crucial role in its overall health, comfort, performance, and long-term postural stance. Understanding the factors that influence these angles and maintaining proper care through regular trimming, nutrition, and exercise can prevent many common issues and ensure the horse's well-being. By paying attention to hoof angles, horse owners and professionals can promote a long, healthy, and active life for their equine companions.

These influencing factors are not just a requirement of hoof angles; it is understanding the complex biological structures of the equine body and how they affect the long-term density of the animal. When trimming the individual foot of the equine, you must consider the loading on the supporting structures of the distal limb, as this can be observed in the dysfunctional effects on the tensile strength of the structures. Understanding the biological requirements of the individual structures enhances your ability to comprehend the biomechanical loading of the equine body and, therefore, ensures that nature's bioengineering status is relevant to the individual animal and not to the hoof angle as what the industry concludes as true and correct.

The horse is our teacher, as they are the only ones who know what transpires within their bodies and that they must make compensational corrections that affect the hoof angle of the individual limbs. You are the student of their destiny, so make yourself the best student you can be by listening to what they are showing you in the pathology of their bodies and opening your mind to the opportunity of learning from them.

Tips for Feeding Late-Term Broodmares

The greatest in utero foal growth occurs during the last trimester and, traditionally, this is when owners increased the mare's dietary intake. Researchers have discovered, though, that the tissues associated with supporting fetal growth start to develop earlier in pregnancy. Therefore, the current recommendations are to gradually increase dietary nutrients starting in the second trimester.

The extra calories mares need can often come from good-quality forage. However, it can be a challenge for some mares to consume enough forage once the foal starts to take up more space internally, and forage alone won't provide enough key nutrients such as copper, zinc, and, vitamin E. Depending on forage quality, your mare might need an additional quality protein source as well.

If the mare is able to maintain her condition and shows visible signs of weight gain on good forage alone, providing only a daily mare and foal supplement will be enough. If the mare isn't consuming enough forage to maintain her condition and is not showing visible signs of foal growth, a higher calorie feed is indicated. There are many good commercial feeds designed specifically for mares and foals; one of these would be a good choice.

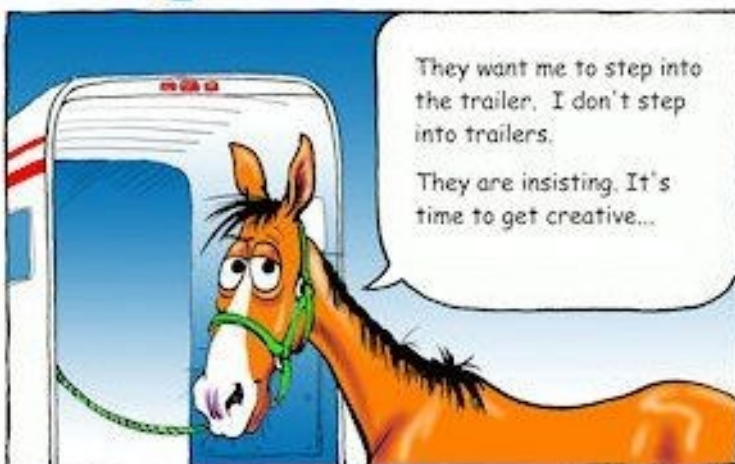
While the nutrient increases during pregnancy are only slightly greater than those of light work, lactation places considerably more demands on a mare.

Feeding a higher calorie mare and foal feed during the last trimester is recommended, even to those mares who haven't required it to maintain weight during pregnancy. This is because the mare experiences many stressful changes at birth, so introducing a new feed or making drastic feeding changes at the same time should be avoided. By introducing a small amount of a good quality feed made specifically for a lactating mare during the third trimester, the mare will not have to be introduced to a new feed during postpartum stress.

Whether the mare has access to pasture will also affect how she is fed. Good-quality pasture is a rich source of vitamin E, calories, and protein. However, hay isn't a source of vitamin E, because this vitamin isn't particularly heat-stable. Therefore, on hay-based diets or poor pasture need supplemental vitamin E sources—this includes mares grazing dormant winter pastures.

Vitamin E passes to the foal via colostrum, which the mare makes during the last weeks of pregnancy. So if the mare is on hay or a winter stressed pasture, a vitamin E supplement is essential.

The source of supplemental vitamin E is important. Horses don't absorb synthetic sources as well as they do natural sources. If your horse requires a vitamin E supplement, look for d-alpha-tocopherol acetate, ideally in a water-soluble liquid form, and avoid dl-alpha tocopherol (the synthetic form).



Foal Development Chart:

A visual guide to foal fetal development

Day 9:



Microscopic:
The foal is the size of a pinpoint.

Day 24:



Pea:
The foal is now 1/4 inch in diameter

Day 40:



Olive:
At one month gestation the foal is only 3/4" long and weighs just under 1/2 an ounce.

Days 50-55:



Pecan:
The foal is now 1 inch in diameter.

Day 60:



Hamster:
At two months gestation, the foal is the size of a hamster and weighs one ounce.

Day 80:



Chipmunk:
The foal is 4 inches long and weighing 2 ounces.

Day 100:



Kitten:
At 3 months gestation the foal weighs 1 pound

Day 150:



Rabbit:
Nearing 5 months gestation, The foal weighs 6 pounds and is the size of a rabbit.

Day 180:



Beagle:
About 6 months gestation. The foal is now 19 inches long and weighs 25 pounds.

Day 240:



Lamb:
At 8 months gestation, the foal is the size of a lamb and weighs 45 pounds.

Day 270:



German Shepherd:
Close to nine months gestation, the foal is 27 inches long and weighing around 70-80 pounds.

Day 320:



Foal:
Gestation is now at 10 1/2 months. The foal is fully developed.
Your mare should foal between 320 and 365 days

Is Insurance For Your Horse a Good Option?

Have you ever considered buying mortality or health insurance for your horses? If in doubt, check it out.

Horse insurance works a lot like other types of insurance: You pay a monthly or annual premium in exchange for financial protection if something goes wrong. The right kind of insurance can help soften the financial blow of unexpected veterinary bills or the loss of your horse.

Mortality insurance is the foundation of most horse insurance policies and covers the value of your horse if he dies due to illness, injury, accident, or humane euthanasia. It is often referred to as life insurance for the horse. Premiums are based on the horse's value, age, and use, usually costing 2.5 to 4% of a horse's insured value per year. So for a \$10,000 insured value, that's roughly \$290-\$400/year.

Major medical insurance coverage helps pay for veterinary expenses related to illness or injury. It covers diagnostics, surgery, hospitalization, and treatments. The policy usually has an annual coverage limit (commonly \$5,000-\$15,000) and does not typically cover routine care like vaccines or dentistry. The cost is typically about \$200 to \$800 plus per year.

Then there is Surgical-Only Insurance. This is a more limited and affordable alternative to major medical coverage, because it covers costs related specifically to surgery. It excludes diagnostics, medications, and nonsurgical treatments.

Loss of use insurance coverage applies if your horse becomes permanently unable to perform his intended job. It is commonly used for performance horses and is often harder to qualify for and more expensive. The payouts are typically a percentage of the horse's insured value.

It's Fly Season, Again! What To Do?

Flies are a familiar seasonal frustration, but for horses, they're more than just a nuisance—they can lead to constant tail swishing, foot stomping, head tossing, and skin twitching. Beyond being irritating, flying insects such as gnats, midges, mosquitoes, horse flies, deer flies, black flies, face flies, and stable flies can pose real threats to equine health by causing skin conditions and transmitting serious diseases.

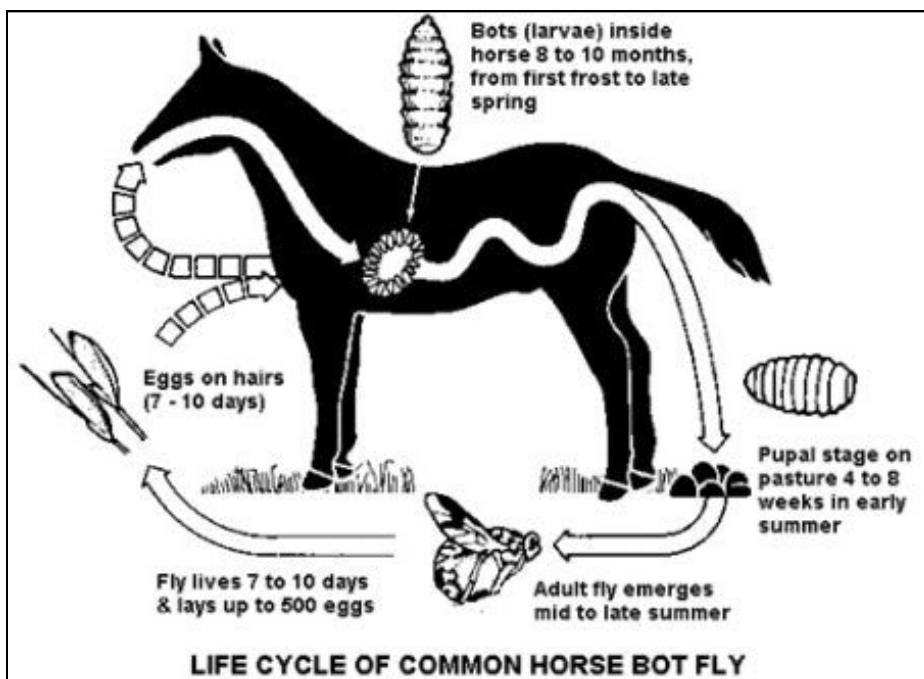
In addition to viral risks, a horse's skin is vulnerable to allergic reactions, fungal infections, and secondary bacterial conditions caused by excessive itching and skin trauma. Once the skin barrier is compromised, it often attracts even more flies, creating a worsening cycle of irritation and infection.

Managing flying insects around horses requires a comprehensive approach. Effective strategies include the use of topical insect repellents, protective fly sheets and masks to create physical barriers, and rigorous stable and pasture management. Keeping environments clean and dry helps reduce insect breeding grounds, making your property less appealing to egg-laying pests.

Horse flies feed on the nectar of plants and plant exudates such as resins, gums or oils (substances that ooze from a plant). But the female needs a blood meal in order to consume the protein required to produce eggs. While the male fly's mouthparts are quite weak, it is the female fly that has the cutting and sawing equipment to do the job - and cause grief to horse and human hosts in the process.

The female's mouthparts are made up of a bundle of cutting stylets, or blades, and some of them have sawing edges. The fly's muscles can move these cutting blades side to side to pierce the horse's skin and enlarge the wound to cause blood to flow. Her saliva contains an anticoagulant to stop the blood from clotting. She laps up the blood with a spongelike part in her mouth and she will visit multiple hosts to obtain sufficient blood. Sometimes the saliva can trigger an allergic reaction in a horse causing hives or breathing problems. The constant aggravation of flies can cause horses to become stressed, interrupt grazing, lose weight, and, in dairy cattle, can reduce milk output.

Pest management is essential, starting with hygiene in and around the barn. According to an online report, ***Fly Control around Horses***, by Dr. Roger Moon and Betsy Gilkerson Wieland, University of Minnesota, flies will lay 50-150



eggs every few days in moist, organic debris including manure, old hay around feeders, straw or soiled bedding. Maggots hatch from the eggs and feed on the bacteria growing in the debris. They mature into pupae and then into winged adults. The entire life cycle can be completed in just two weeks and the adult fly will live one to three weeks, depending on weather. Flies need a moisture range of 35 to 70 percent for larval development and, for every fly you see, half a dozen are in the development stage.

Manure as well as rotting hay or straw should be removed and composted well away (at least 1600 feet) from where animals are housed or contained. Use an aerobic com-

posting system that generates heat; a system that does not get hot enough is a breeding ground for flies.

The use of fly predators also offers effective natural fly control. These are tiny parasitic wasps that do not bite or sting. They live their entire life cycle on or near manure where the fly pupa are found and destroy the next generation of flies in that pupa stage. They target stable flies and house flies and can reduce fly populations by up to 90 percent.

Some flies and mosquitoes seek standing water in which to lay eggs. Remove or overturn any container that will collect rainwater, fix leaky waterers that puddle on the ground, and fix dribbling taps. Keep feed tubs and water buckets scrubbed to remove algae and scour out the water trough regularly. Remove empty flower pots and tires where rain collects.

If possible, use properly installed fans to blow air over stalled horses as this will deter flies and mosquitoes. Circulating air makes it harder for flies to navigate and land on the animals.

Consider using fly traps such sticky traps and replace them frequently as they quickly become clogged with dead flies and dust.

If possible, make your barn fly-predator friendly by encouraging bats and birds to nest in the rafters. Barn swallows are aerial insectivores that feed on flying insects. This group of birds, which includes swifts, swallows, flycatchers and goatsuckers, has declined alarmingly in population. Threats include unpredictable changes to weather patterns and changes to building structures and materials on modern farms (Tucker and Heath 1994). Breeding Bird Survey data shows a long-term (1966-2022) decline. The past three Breeding Bird Atlas data has shown a negative trend with -12.4 decline in the 2020 atlas. Although the barn swallow is still a numerous (population estimates around 300 million mature individuals) and widespread bird, the steady decline being observed in the population is concerning and more research will need to be done to understand this change.

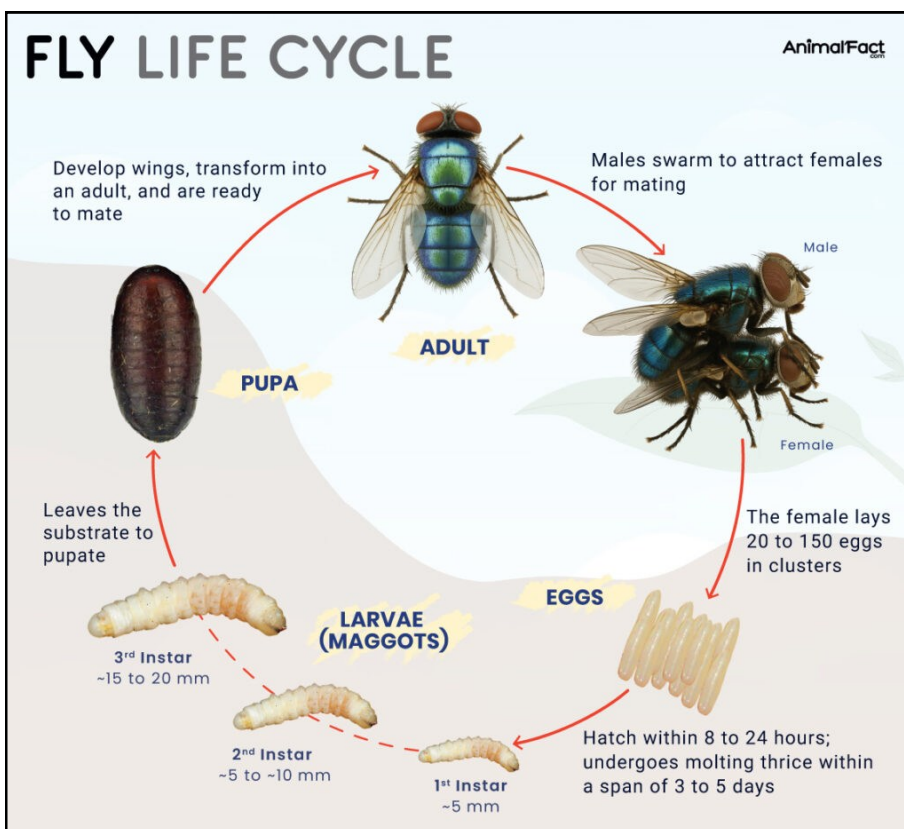
In fact, right across North America the barn swallow has actually seen a 95 percent drop in population in the last 40 years, a statistic mirrored by many species of song birds.

To help attract swallows in your barn, give them access to the interior and provide a ledge or cross beam high up where they can build their cup-shaped nests out of mud. A source of wet mud outside will give them the tools to do the job and in return your horses will be rewarded with a beautiful bird that efficiently eats the tormenting biting insects.

Bats are legendary as voracious insect predators and will eat half their weight in insects every night. They prey on mosquitoes, crickets, grasshoppers and flies, and a little brown bat may catch up to 600 insects an hour. You might want to consider installing a bat house high in a nearby tree or on a suitable location on your barn roof to encourage residents.

(Excerpts from extapps.dec.nygov/BarnSwallows and the August '26 article from HorseJournals)

Fly predators can be found online at these websites: Natures'sGoodGuys.com, buglogical.com, and Spalding-labs.com. They can also be found on Amazon, Valley Vet, Jeffers, and Light Livestock equipment.



So The Foal Is Born. Now What?

The foal will usually stand within 30 minutes, typically after several failed attempts. As soon as it is steady on its feet, often within an hour of birth, the foal will attempt to nurse. Teat-seeking behavior is persistent, even somewhat random, because the foal does not know exactly where the teat is located. We've had foals that attempt to suckle the walls of the stall. However, with the gentle assistance of the mare, the foal will finally locate the teat, quickly understand its purpose, and know how to suckle, a behavior that is instinctive in horses

Within the first two hours, a foal starts breathing (within seconds), lifts its head (within 5 minutes), attempts to rise (within 10 minutes), stands (within 55 minutes), vocalizes (within 45 minutes), defecates meconium (within 30 minutes), suckles for the first time (within one hour), walks-runs for the first time (within 90 minutes), and takes its first nap (within two hours). Our vet wants the three S's, as he calls them (stand, suck, and s**t), completed within the first hour



Understanding normal foaling behavior helps observers identify abnormal behavior or problems associated with foaling. Foals nurse frequently during the first few weeks of birth. Estimates range from one to two times per hour, with each session lasting about three minutes, and always immediately after a nap. Foals are seen banging the flat of the head against the milk sacks at about two weeks to increase milk production.

As foals age, the frequency and duration of suckling decreases and they begin to eat other grass or grain. Foals will remain close to their dams the first few weeks of life but will gradually explore their environment, circling the mom in wider and wider circles. When the foal is 5 to 7 months of age, 70 percent of their nutrients will come from non milk sources. This is one reason it is recommended to wean foals at about 5 to 7 months of age.

If you are present during the birth of the foal, your first step after the delivery is to make sure the foal is breathing. If the foal is breathing, your job is done and you should leave the foaling area and observe the mare and foal from a distance. This allows the mare and foal time alone to recover from the delivery and bond

to each other socially. If the foal does not begin breathing on its own, tickle its nostril with a piece of grass or straw or blow into the foal's mouth to stimulate the respiratory reflex. If the foal still does not breathe, try rubbing the foal vigorously, squeezing its ribs or lifting it about one foot off the ground and dropping it. These procedures usually shock the foal slightly and initiate respiration. Dr. Pol from Disney+ suggests swinging the foal.

A normal, healthy foal lifts its head and neck and rolls onto its chest within several seconds after delivery. Then the foal begins to make creeping movements away from its dam. If the mare has not stood up yet, the foal's movements usually break the naval (umbilical) cord. You should wait for either the mare or foal to break the umbilical cord. Do not cut the umbilical cord immediately after birth, because it is thought the foal receives blood from the placenta after birth. Do not pull the placenta from the mare. Make a knot in it to keep the mare from stepping on it, then let it slide out on its own. If she retains it, that's a problem

Once the umbilical cord breaks, the stump should be dipped in a mild, 1 to 2 percent iodine solution, and while you have the foal on the ground, administer a mild enema. The iodine should be administered at least twice a day for a few days in order to dry the umbilical stump and prevent bacteria from traveling up the stump and entering the foal's

body. Bacteria that enters the foal through the umbilical stump can cause a systemic infection known by various names, such as shigellosis, naval ill, joint ill, septicemia, or polyarthritis.

Urine dripping from the stump indicates that the fetal urine passage from the bladder to the umbilical (the urachus) has not closed. Normally the urachus closes at birth. If it fails to close, in a condition called “persistent urachus,” the foal should be treated by a veterinarian.

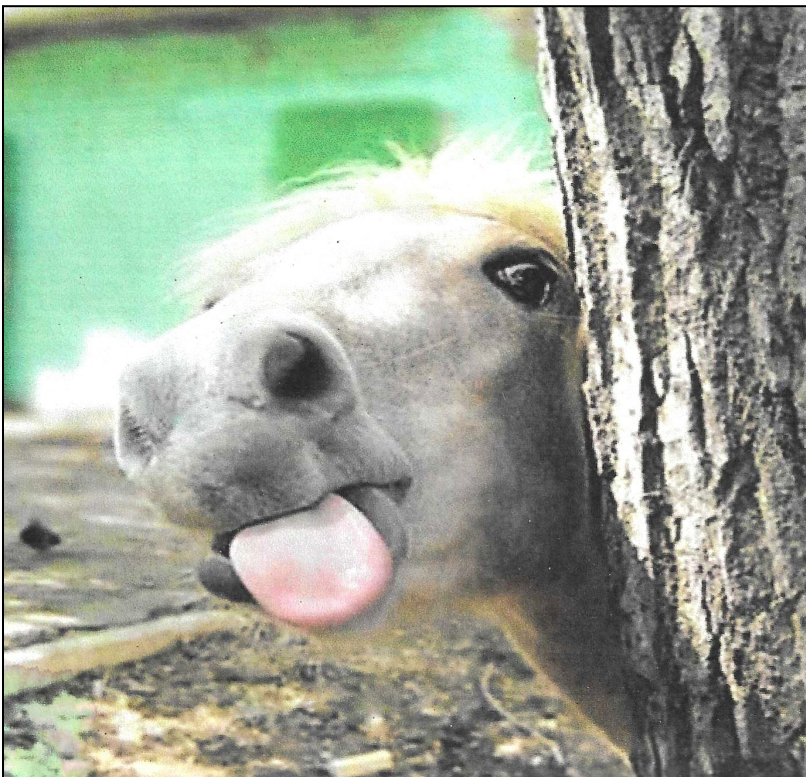
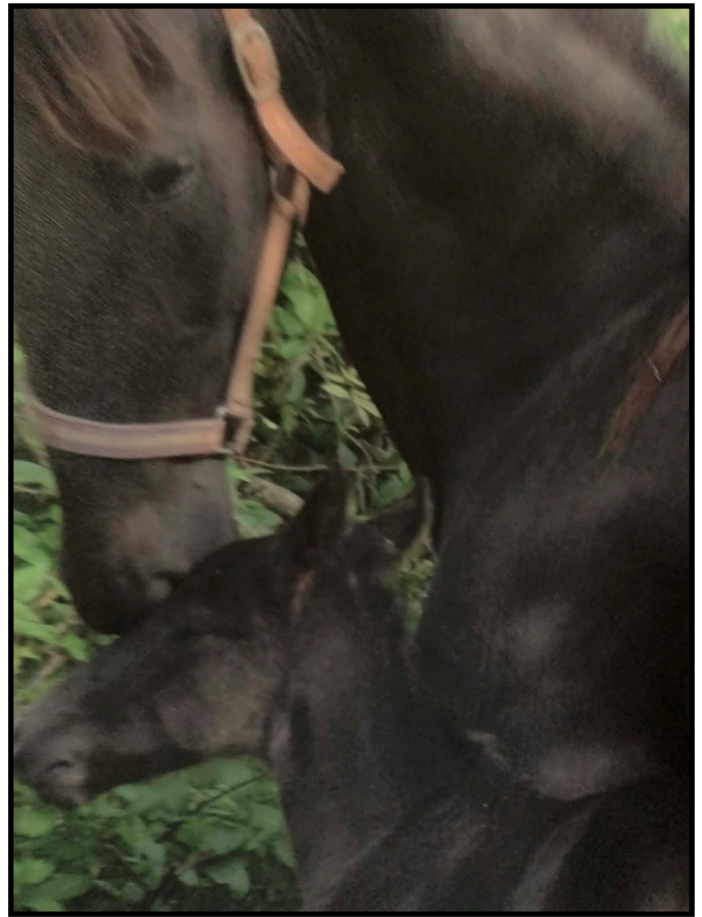
Usually, foals stand within one hour after birth. During the first standing attempts, the foal is unsteady and constantly shifting its head, neck, and feet in an attempt to remain balanced. This unsteadiness is normal, and you should let the foal stand by itself. Lifting the foal onto its feet before its legs are strong enough to support it may strain tendons and ligaments, and it interferes with the bonding process between the mare and foal.

When he stands, the foal should begin nursing attempts. The foal instinctively searches at the junction of the mare’s legs (both front and back) and body for the udder. The exploratory process involved with finding the udder is normal, and, again, you should resist the desire to “help” the foal. Human interference during initial nursing attempts actually may slow the foal’s progress in finding the udder, and it interferes with the mare-foal bond. However, if the foal has not nursed by 2 hours after birth or if the mare aggressively rejects the foal’s attempts to nurse, then it is time to interfere.

Help the foal stand up and gently guide it to the mare’s udder. Hand milk a few drops of colostrum (the mare’s first milk) from the mare and coat your fingers and the mare’s teats with it. Get the foal to suck your finger coated with colostrum and gradually move your finger beside the mare’s teat. Then, slowly pull your finger out of the foal’s mouth so the foal will switch to the teat. This procedure may have to be repeated several times before the foal makes the switch to the teat.

Occasionally a young mare or a mare with a swollen, sensitive udder will have to be restrained for several nursing sessions before she willingly lets the foal nurse. If the mare does not accept the foal after a few nursing bouts, you can try twitching her or administering a sedative to tranquilize the mare. Keeping the mare tranquilized for a day or two solves most foal rejection problems.

So, you’re on your way. The foal is up, nursing, getting rid of the meconium, dancing around and enjoying a new life. Enjoy the ride!



New and Renewed SHOBA Members

Mohammad AL-Gharoshi
Moshe Beno
Bily & Terri Bisette
Yocci Dabael
Kylie Davis
David Dayan
Morgan Goble
Ronnie Halsey
Cameron Hitt
Ziv Labav
Owen Lewis
Billy Long
Bernard Mullins
Yizhak Ben Naim
Doug Ripley
Lendell & Cindy Rowe
Shalom Seilouk
Jackie and Lisa Stanley
Ronnell & Teresa Williams
Calvin Willis
Steve & Suzi Williams
Jackie & Patricia Yeager
Jayme Zirkle

Preparing and Maintaining Stallions For Breeding Season

“Stallion management is an underserved area, yet subfertility or infertility has a vast effect on the success of a breeding plan,” said C. Scott Bailey, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACT, associate professor at Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, in Ithaca, New York. Bailey described key management factors veterinarians should evaluate in live cover stallions during his presentation at the 2025 American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention, held Dec. 6-10, in Denver, Colorado.

While mare management often dominates reproductive discussions, Bailey emphasized that overlooking the stallion can derail an entire breeding season. From anatomy and physiology to housing and behavior, small management gaps can have significant fertility consequences.

Most stallions should be fed according to their maintenance requirements or slightly above that amount, depending on how much they’re exercising, when not being bred or collected. However, as breeding season approaches, stallion owners might consider a few key points about their studs’ nutritional needs.

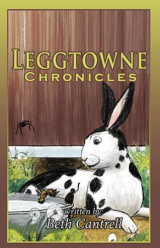
Stallions’ energy needs are dependent on breeding frequency. There is no physiological increase in calories directly related to sperm production, but the physical activity associated with breeding does burn calories. Stallions covering mares or being collected a few times each week will not need as many calories as a stallion breeding 10 to 15 times per week.

To increase a stallion’s caloric intake without drastically increasing the total amount of food consumed, consider adding fat to his diet. In addition, a fat source could help to keep the stallion less excitable in the breeding shed. In addition to providing calories, a fat source in the stallion’s diet might also benefit sperm quality and mobility. Additionally, research has shown that an increase in omega-3 fatty acids in the diet could be beneficial to some breeding stallions.

Further, there is some evidence that certain minerals and vitamins could help improve fertility. Research in horses has shown that selenium is important in sperm motility and structure. Selenium and vitamin E work together in an antioxidant capacity to protect cells from oxidative damage, and Vitamin C has been shown to increase sperm concentration in other species.

Forage (pasture and hay), the foundation of a horse’s diet, is a major source of nutrients, including omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3 fatty acids make up about 55% of the fat in grass and 18-35% of the fat in hay. Granted, forages only contain about 3% total fat, but considering the amount consumed per day, forages will always be the most vital source of omega-3s in the diet purely by volume.

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