

the first hair appears on the lips and the tip of the tail; between the thirty-fifth and fortieth week the foal begins to show signs of life, and is completely covered with hair. After this time the foal grows very rapidly and can be seen moving around by watching at the flank. The mare carries her foal eleven months, but in some cases in aged mares they have been known to carry their foal over twelve months, and in rare cases in young mares they lack a few days of eleven months.

How to Tell When a Mare is With Foal.—The first thing that is noticed is that she does not come in season at the end of three weeks, and if felt at the flanks she will be noticed to be peevish and cross, and also ugly to other horses. The mare usually feeds and thrives better at this period, and at the end of three or four months she begins to get larger at the flanks, and gradually continues getting larger until foaling time. Mares that are fed on hard feed and worked do not usually get as large as mares fed on rough feed and not worked. At about the fifth or sixth month the foal begins stirring in the womb, which can be seen at the flank; this is noticed mostly after the mare has had a drink of cold water; it also can be felt by pressing the hand against the flank on the left side. At about the sixth month in the young mare the mammary glands, or bag, begins to get large, and gradually gets larger until the time of foaling.

Signs of Foaling.—The muscles and ligaments gradually become relaxed until there is quite a hollow at each side of the tail. The vulva gets quite large at foaling time and wax usually runs from the teats of the mare a few days before. A few hours before foaling she is noticed to be walking around and acting quite uneasy until the labor pains come on, when her restlessness increases to getting up and down and forcing, until what is known as the water bag comes out and breaks; the labor pains increase, and she lies down, forcing violently, until the front legs and head of the foal appear, when it soon slips out, and the cleaning generally comes with it. Sometimes the foal comes backwards, which is harder on the mare. If the mouth of the foal is examined immediately it is found to contain what is known as the melt, which looks like a piece of liver.