



Hearn Veterinary Services

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Abortion Management

Steps for Control and Prevent Spread of any Infectious Agents

1. Quarantine the area – Stall / Paddock / Field.
2. Put on gloves and rubber boots. Collect the fetus and placenta and submit them for post mortem at the Animal Health Lab, Guelph. Evaluate the mare.
3. Contact your veterinarian.
4. Quarantine the farm. Do not allow any pregnant mares to leave or join the group until the results of the post mortem are known (Allow 1 week for the post mortem results).
If the cause is determined to be Herpes Virus:
 - a. Do not accept any new broodmares for foaling this year.
 - b. Do not allow any pregnant mares to leave the farm until all mares have foaled.
5. Fetal membranes, fluids, and vaginal discharges are a potent source of the infection. Clean and disinfect the stall where the abortion took place. If it occurred in a paddock, consider not using that paddock for a period.
6. Determine vaccination history of the mare: e.g. Equine Viral Abortion vaccination with a product such as Pneumabort K or Prestige should be given at 3,5,7, and 9 months of gestation. It is not recommended to vaccinate for Herpes virus in the face of an outbreak.
7. The aborted mare should be turned out with barren mares or geldings after the abortion. She will continue to shed Herpes virus until the end of foal heat.