

Intensive Care for Foals Available at UC Davis

Foaling season is upon us. Should any complications arise with your clients' foals, the Lucy G. Whittier Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) can assist you. Our highly-trained team, led by a board-certified critical care specialist, can handle the most complicated cases, providing 24/7 coverage. The NICU is equipped with customized stalls to support sick foals, allowing intensive management under the watchful eye of the mare in an adjoining stall.

Sick newborns are very critical and if not treated early, can have severe complications and high mortality. The NICU's team is experienced in successfully handling post-birth complications that require the high-level intensive care a sick foal needs. The VMTH's intensive care technicians provide around-the-clock monitoring, oxygen, IV fluids, IV antibiotics and nutritional support.

Critical conditions the NICU treats include:

Colic
Diarrhea
Dummy foal syndrome
Failure of passive transfer
NI (Neonatal Iserytholysis)
Orthopedic problems (i.e. contracted legs, crooked legs)
Prematurity
Ruptured bladder
Sepsis
Septic joints
Kidney or liver failure

Additionally, post-foaling procedures performed by the NICU include: providing physical therapy for foals with leg deformities; evaluating the mare's reproductive tract with the VMTH's Equine Reproduction Service; retaining placentas in the mare; milking mares to feed foals if necessary.

The NICU has three mare/foal stalls, with ample overflow space into the nearby ICU barn.

For more information on intensive care for foals at UC Davis, please contact:

VMTH Large Animal Clinic: 530-752-0290