



SUPPLEMENTING FOALS & YOUNGSTOCK

Breeding represents a huge commitment to time and money, and you want your new foal to give you the best possible return on that investment. Giving your foal the best start in his life is essential and nutrition naturally plays a key part in this.

Fibregenix Prime Original's small pellets are the perfect introduction to creep feeding and can be safely fed from 3 weeks of age.

Including **Prime Original** in your foal's diet can:

Promote steady even growth rates,

Promote good muscle tone,

Promote a shiny coat and healthy skin

Aid the development of dense, well-mineralised bone and strong, healthy hooves

Help maintain a healthy gut – the digestive health package in Prime Original contains a highly effective live probiotic yeast to aid digestion in the caecum. Added purified nucleotides help to encourage good villi development for improved nutrient absorption. This means great gut health from the off and a reduced risk of digestive disorders which can also help prevent stress during weaning.

GROWTH MONITORING

Not all foals grow at the same rate as breed, sex, body condition and genetics can influence growth rate and therefore the level of nutrients required. By weighing your foal and plotting this on the Growth Monitoring Chart, the foal's growth rate can be followed from birth to 24 months. The chart is divided into 6 colour-coded areas which represent 6 different "estimated mature bodyweights". Many growth-related problems can be prevented by charting a foal's growth rate and body condition then selecting the correct feeding programme for their age and weight. This will supply all the nutrients necessary to support growth but without over or underfeeding.

GROWTH RATES

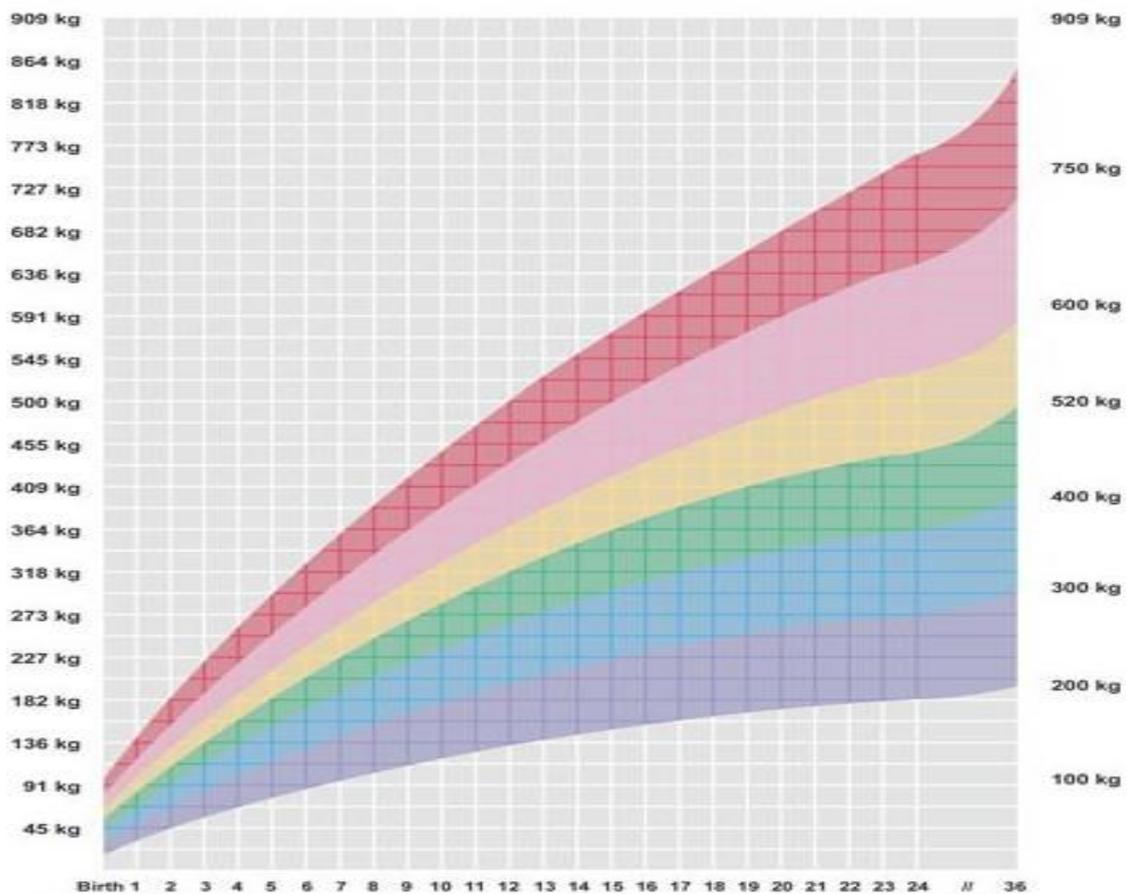
Ideally, a foal should follow a consistent even growth curve that corresponds to the basic line of one of the coloured segments overleaf. If a youngster is growing rapidly the curve will be very upright.

If the growth curve is very flat, the energy content of the foal's diet may need to be increased.

- The coloured bands relate to anticipated mature bodyweight which can be estimated based on the actual or estimated bodyweight of the dam and/or sire.
- A guide to mature bodyweights for a variety of breeds and types of horses is given below.

TO USE THE GROWTH MONITORING CHART

- Establish the weight of the youngster using either a weigh tape or weigh bridge.
- Plot the weight of the youngster corresponding to its age on the chart (measurements can be taken at 2- or 4-week intervals)



1. Determine the individual's weight, using a weigh bridge or weigh tape (available from Baileys). 2. Establish the individual's age along the bottom of the chart. 3. Mark the point where the age and bodyweight lines cross. 4. The colour band refers to the anticipated mature bodyweight (refer overleaf).

Purple	440-660 lbs / 200-300kg	Miniatures, Shetlands
Blue	660-880 lbs / 300-400kg	Riding/Showing/Native ponies
Green	880-1100 lbs / 400-500kg	Thoroughbreds, Arabs, Standardbreds
Yellow	1100-1320 lbs / 500-600kg	Thoroughbreds, Cobs, Hunter types
Pink	1320-1540 lbs / 600-700kg	Irish Draught, Warmbloods
Red	1540 + lbs / 700 + kg	Heavy horses

GROWTH PROBLEMS



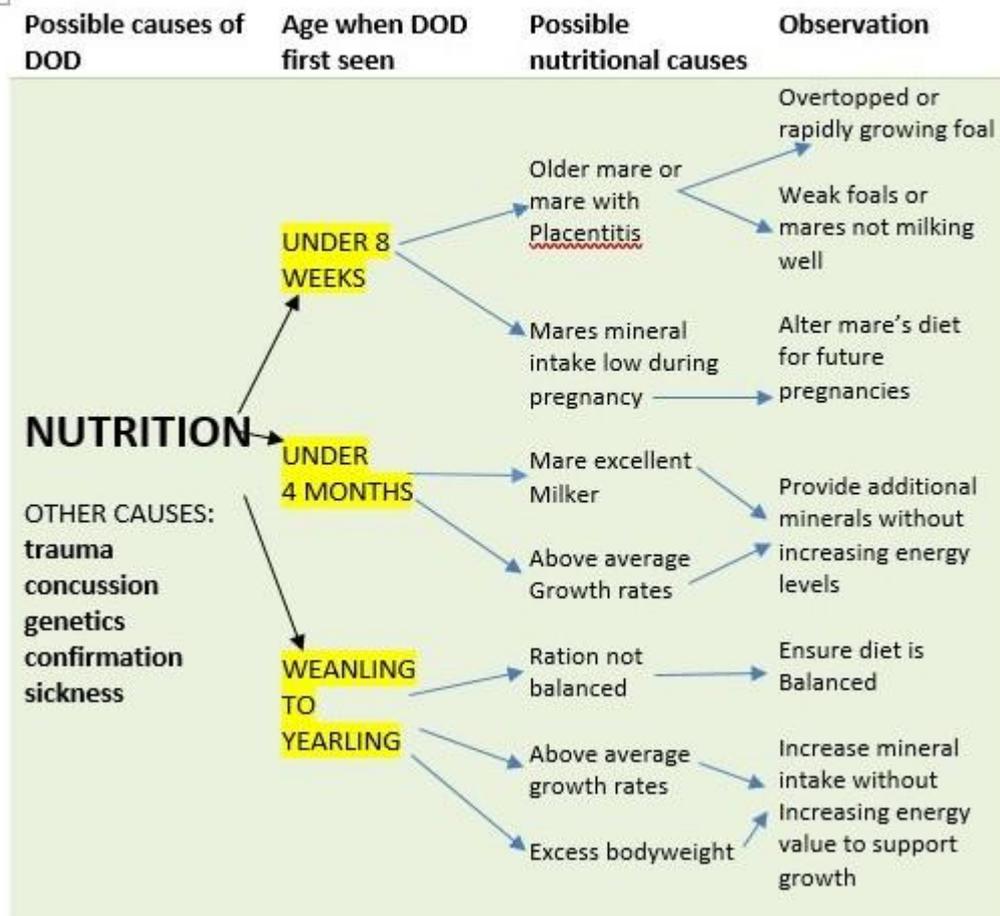
Growth problems, from left to right: Knock knees, epiphysis's, contracted tendons, epiphysis's

Developmental Orthopaedic Disease (DOD) is generally recognised as a failure of the cartilage to develop into mature healthy bone and can manifest as epiphysis's, osteochondrosis, bone cysts, juvenile arthritis or wobbler syndrome.

- Genetic predisposition including poor leg conformation and the inability to absorb certain nutrients.
- Management including limited activity, too much forced activity and trauma from carrying too much weight.
- Nutrition, starting from the pregnant mare absorbing inadequate nutrients for foetal development and including large grain-based meals fed to youngstock, and infrequent feeding.

Many researchers have shown that high protein diets are not directly linked to DOD however, a high energy diet accompanied by an inadequate supply of minerals can result in developmental problems. Typically, this would occur when straight cereals are fed without a supplement or balancer designed specifically for breeding and youngstock or where grass or forage is rich in calories and, again, no balancing nutrients are supplied. It is now also widely accepted that controlled exercise alongside balanced nutrition is important for the development, strength and remodelling ability of bone in the young horse.

As a general rule, problems evident in all four limbs are likely to be related to nutrition or genetics, whilst those appearing in a pair of limbs (fore or hind) could be caused by management or conformation, giving rise to uneven weight distribution and trauma. If only one leg is affected, it is likely to be related to conformation or it could be due to an old injury which has caused trauma to one particular area of the limb. Whilst attention to nutrition may not directly affect those problems which are trauma or conformation-related, providing all the nutrients to support correct growth can only serve to help the body repair and develop associated tissues.





YEARLINGS TO TWO YEARS

Young horses thrive on a high fibre diet with the inclusion of quality digestible protein for muscle growth and development.

FEED ADVICE

Adding Prime Original to a young horse's quality fibre diet will ensure he gets all the essential nutrients he needs without having to rely on a grain-based high starch diet which can lead to uneven growth spurts, unwanted weight gain, joint issues and even metabolic issues such as laminitis. A good fibre diet for a young horse will consist of quality pasture (ideally avoiding rye/clover pasture and the use of fertilisers such as nitrates, urea or superphosphates), quality hay, chaff and other fibre products such as Speedibeet.

By supplementing your youngster's diet with a comprehensive joint and bone supplement such as Fibregenix Liquid Joint and Bone, you will help to promote strong, dense bone development and healthy, nourished joints to ensure longevity of the skeletal system and limbs. Fibregenix Liquid Joint & Bone contains and Glucosamine HCL, which is vital for cartilage metabolism and the formation of synovial fluid, the joint's natural lubricant. It also contains organic MSM, Hyaluronic Acid, Rosehip and a bone supplement comprising of vitamin D3 and calcium chelate – all these active ingredients help to support and nourish your youngster's joints and bones.

On a further note, weaning can be a very stressful time. Fibregenix Liquid Karma can be fed to both the mare and foal for two weeks prior to weaning and can be continued until they have settled. This liquid calmer made with 100% natural ingredients contains no prohibited substances and is a safe and natural way to help take the stress out of the weaning process. For the owner we would advocate perhaps a stiff drink!