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Helpful Hints for Feeding Palastart MR to Foals



Replacer Specifications:

- Should be diluted to 10-17% total solids or dry matter
- Should preferably contain only milk protein although specially processed soy protein may be okay
- Crude fibre should be not more than 0.2%
- Should contain at least 20% crude protein and 15% fat (mare milk is around 25% protein, 17% fat)

Amount of milk consumed

- An amount equal to 20-25% of foal's body weight daily for the first 5 weeks of life and 17-20% thereafter (approx 14L/day at birth, increasing by 1L/week up to 18-20L until weaning).

Frequency of feeding

- Ideally should be fed in equal amounts every 4 hours for first 1-2 weeks of life
- From 1-2 weeks to 3-4 weeks feed milk 4 times daily (eg morning, noon, early evening and before going to bed)
- Thereafter 3 times daily
- It is recommended to begin by feeding ½ the amount of milk needed then gradually increasing this over the following 36-48 hours. If diarrhoea or colic occur, don't feed for 4-8 hours then increase the frequency so that not so much is given at once.

Other important factors to consider:

- All diet changes should be gradual
- Water should always be easily available
- Milk should be supplemented with solid feed as soon as possible
- All feeding equipment should be cleaned well after every feeding
- The following should be closely monitored: foal's attitude, appetite, hydration, fecal output and consistency, growth rate

Reference:

Lewis, L.D., *Equine Clinical Nutrition: Feeding and Care*. Ed: Williams & Wilkins, US., 1995.

For Further information on any of the points mentioned above contact your Palastart representative on **1800 067 919**.

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