



Northeast Pennsylvania Equine Clinic, L.L.C.

Ellen L. Johnson, D.V.M.

4326 State Route 1001 • Thompson • PA • 18465

Tel: 570-727-2868 • Fax: 570-727-2935

Urogenital Cleaning of Mares

General Information

A mare's urogenital area (vulva, clitoris) is cleaned before breeding in an effort to prevent urogenital infection. Cleaning a mare's urogenital area is easier than cleaning a gelding or stallion.

The mare's udder should also be cleaned periodically. Accumulation of crusty material around the udder can cause irritation and infection. Such udder irritation causes the mare discomfort and sometimes alters a mare's gait.

Materials needed:

- 1 pair of latex gloves
- Warm, clean water
- Liquid nonirritating soap (Dawn dish soap)
- A capable assistant to hold the lead rope

The Cleaning Procedure

The vulva should be cleaned with warm, clean water and liquid soap along both sides of the labia (lips). To do a proper job, the lower part of the labia should be manually everted (turned inside out) and any small waxy "beans" removed. These beans are similar to those found in the urethral diverticulum of males. Because this area of the labia is very sensitive, be careful, as the mare may kick during cleaning of the labia.

The nipples and udder are small on a maiden mare, and thus easier to keep clean. Mares that have foaled have a larger udder and nipples. Dirt tends to accumulate between the nipples and must be washed away periodically to prevent infection.

Call Our Office If:

- You have any questions concerning urogenital cleaning of mares.
- You detect any abnormal swelling of the vulva or udder.
- You detect any wounds or bleeding of the vulva or udder. Sometimes mares bruised themselves while backing into and rubbing on objects when they are in heat.