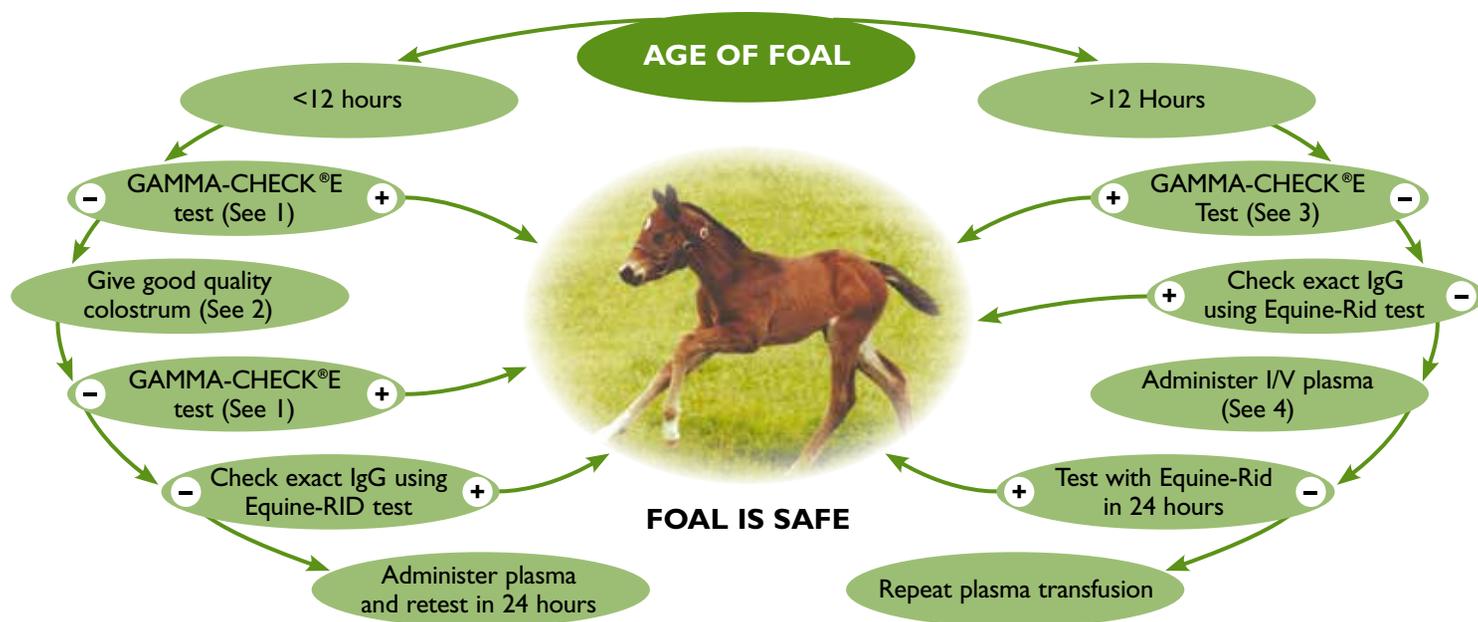




GUIDE TO THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF FAILURE OF PASSIVE TRANSFER



1. Because foals who nurse good quality colostrum should have 800mg/dl IgG by 6 hours of age, the level should ideally be checked at about 6–8 hours of age. Using the GAMMA-CHECK®E test, this is easily accomplished in 5 minutes. The test is based on the ability of glutaraldehyde to cause a clot in the presence of IgG. It can be done foal side, is very economical and utilizes whole blood or serum. Other tests, such as one utilizing zinc sulphate, if properly standardized, can also be used at this stage.
2. Foals with a negative GAMMA-CHECK®E reading, and less than 12 hours old, should be given good quality colostrum as soon as possible. The quality of colostrum is tested with either a colostrometer or the GAMMA-CHECK®C test. Colostrum with a specific gravity of over 1.060 or a GAMMA-CHECK®C clot time of less than 5 minutes has an IgG of over 3800mg/dl and therefore 1.6 liters will provide the required 60g. Some other sources of oral IgG have been shown not to increase IgG levels sufficiently and they are usually not recommended. The lack of trypsin

inhibitors (present in colostrum) in non-colostral sources of IgG might also play a part in this—uninhibited trypsin breaking down orally administered antibodies. A minimum dose of 60g IgG given in the first few hours of life is recommended.

3. If the foal is over 12 hours old and has a negative GAMMA-CHECK®E reading, the IgG level should be further quantified with the EQUINE-RID test. Some semiquantitative tests have been shown to over-estimate the IgG level.
4. If the foal is over 12 hours old, plasma should be administered intravenously. Plasma from a commercial source can be administered relatively quickly (1 liter within 15 minutes) and reactions are rare. Reactions are, however, common with some serum sources of IgG in compromised foals and administration of these products needs to be slow and/or the product diluted. EQUIPLAS® should never be diluted.

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