

## **Colostrum Evaluation & Banking System Directions**

For use immediately after mare the foals

1. Collect at least 250 ml (8.5+ ounces) of Colostrum into clean plastic graduated specimen cup.
2. Using a Max-Flow™ Filter, slowly pour the Colostrum into top of the graduated cylinder while the Colostrum is still warm.
3. Fill the graduated cylinder to 250ml level and remove any accumulated foam from surface of Colostrum.
4. CAREFULLY remove Colostrumeter from the box; it is a very fragile instrument.
5. Insert bulb end of Colostrumeter into the graduated cylinder.
6. Once the Colostrumeter gains buoyancy, allow it to stop bobbing.
7. The Colostrumeter will express a measure (exp: 1.055) at the surface point where the Colostrumeter stem rests in Colostrum.

### **Care and maintenance of your Colostrumeter**

1. Remove Colostrumeter from cylinder in a slow vertical motion.
2. Rinse Colostrumeter with clean water, dry with a paper towel.
3. Replace the foam guards onto the bulb and the stem of the Colostrumeter and return it to its box for safe storage.

### **Determination of Colostrum Quality**

1. The actual reading of Colostrumeter will give you the “specific gravity” of the Colostrum.
2. The specific gravity of the Colostrum directly correlates to with the concentration of IgG in Colostrum.
3. A specific gravity >1.065 is superior quality and it is very possible to achieve a specific gravity as high as +1.090.
4. A specific gravity >1.060 is acceptable quality.
5. A specific gravity >1.050 is less desirable and the foal should be fed a supplemental dose of Colostrum immediately after birth in order to maximize absorption through the pours of the gut.
6. A specific gravity < 1.040 is unacceptable; this is just milk and contains very little, if any, IgG.



### **How To Bank Colostrum**

1. Label the 12 ounce Next Generation<sup>®</sup> Specimen bag with the following:
  - a. The Mare's name
  - b. Date of Collection
  - c. The specific gravity as represented by the Colostrumeter
2. Tear off top of Next Generation<sup>®</sup> Specimen bag along perforations.
3. Pour Colostrum slowly into Next Generation<sup>®</sup> Specimen bag.
4. Remove excess air from the Next Generation<sup>®</sup> Specimen bag.
5. Roll the Next Generation<sup>®</sup> Specimen bag from the top down, around the white twist tie and tightly roll near to the surface of Colostrum.
6. Fold tabs around edge of Next Generation<sup>®</sup> Specimen bag.
7. Allow the bag to cool to room temperature and once the temperature is 70° F or 20° C.
8. Carefully lay bag flat in freezer until solidly frozen.

### **How to Use Your Banked Colostrum**

1. Select the dose that you feel best fits the needs of your foal.
  - a. If you know your foal is weak, then give the best Colostrum in your bank to assure the best opportunity of passive transfer.
2. Collect a bath of warm water in a small pan to 100° F or 37° C.
3. Place the collected sample into the small pan of warm water.
4. You will be required to add more warm water in order to maintain a temperature of or 37° C.
5. Only set up 5 – 6 ounces of Colostrum for the foal per feeding because a foal stomach is only 10 ounces; anything above 60% capacity and the foal will fall asleep. When the foal awakes, the opportunity to be hypoglycemic dramatically increases and then you are behind the curve
6. Sit the foal up in a sternal position and allow the foal to nurse using a Next Generation<sup>™</sup> Bent Neck Nursing Bottle with the fitted nipple.
7. You should always cross-reference this system with the Next Generation<sup>™</sup> Quick Check<sup>™</sup> IgG Test Kit at 10 and 36 hours post initial ingestion of the Colostrum.

