

Clostridium perfringens



What is *Clostridium perfringens*?

- Bacteria that causes inflammation of the small and large intestine in young foals.
- Disease progresses rapidly, requires intensive medical care, and has a high mortality rate.
- Foals are often exposed to the bacteria in contaminated feces.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Mares may be vaccinated prior to foaling to provide foals with antibodies through passive transfer.
- Good biosecurity and hygiene procedures are the best way to protect against *C. perfringens* infections.
- The bacterial spores are resistant to many disinfectants and can survive in the environment for extended periods.
- Stalls should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between foalings.

Signs

Diarrhea
Colic
Dehydration
Anorexia
Abdominal distention
Sudden death

Transmission

Contact with
contaminated feces

Treatment

Intensive medical treatment,
including IV fluids,
electrolytes, antibiotics, anti-
inflammatories, antitoxins,
hyperimmune plasma, and
other medications

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*



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