Programmes that manage the oestrus cycle

Suppressing oestrus behaviour.

During oestrus, some mares show unruly, aggressive or dangerous behaviour. This can be difficult to manage and dangerous, especially in competitive sport mares, or children's ponies.

Why mares exhibit such strong aggressive behaviour during oestrus is unclear; a solution is to suppress the oestrus cycle by treating with additional progesterone. This stops mares from cycling, but once treatment is removed, they will quickly begin cycling and have a heat within 7–10 days.

Your veterinarian can prescribe Regumate to suppress your mare's oestrus cycle.

Maintenance of pregnancy.

Some mares have problems producing sufficient progesterone to maintain their pregnancy.

Supplementing your mare's progesterone can help maintain her pregnancy. This is particularly useful when your mare has a known progesterone deficiency, but can also be used during high-risk or high-value pregnancy.

Discuss maintenance of pregnancy with your veterinarian, they may recommend Regumate during the early stages of her pregnancy.

The specialist equine product portfolio

Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health is proud to supply New Zealand's only equine specialist reproductive product portfolio.

In combination with your veterinarian's expertise, Regumate, Chorulon and Estrumate will assist in the breeding and management of your mare.

Regumate®

Regumate regulates mare breeding cycles. It is used in early season mating programmes, for planning stallion servicing or artificial insemination, and to suppress unwanted behaviour associated with oestrus.

Regumate is also used to help maintain pregnancy.

Regumate is administered by mouth either directly with a syringe or drench gun, or by simply adding it to your mare's feed. It can be used for lengthy periods without any side effects.

Regumate comes in 125mL or 1L bottles. A 125mL bottle will treat a 600kg mare for a standard 10 day programme.

Estrumate®

Estrumate promotes egg development and is used with Regumate to control cycling. It is also used by veterinarians in other reproductive situations.

Chorulon®

Chorulon promotes ovulation. It is used, often in association with Regumate, to manage the timing of mating or artificial insemination.

Always read the label before use and follow all safety directions.

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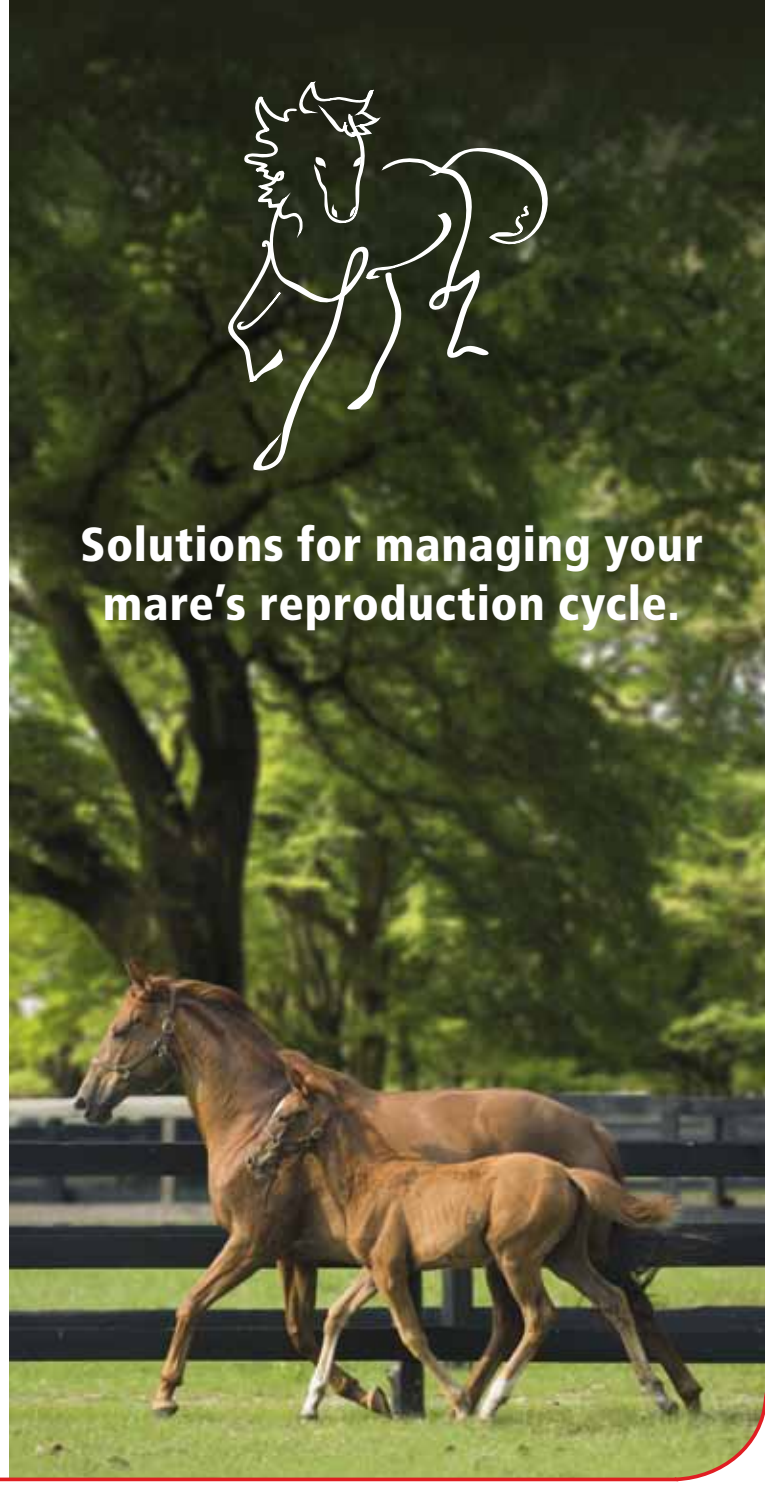


Solutions for managing your mare's reproduction cycle.

Intervet
Schering-Plough Animal Health

The only specialist equine reproduction portfolio

Intervet/Schering-Plough understands that your mare is important to you and is likely to have significant financial and emotional value. She deserves expert veterinary advice and specialist reproductive products.

This booklet provides information on mare reproduction and reproductive situations where our specialist products could have significant benefits for you and your mare.

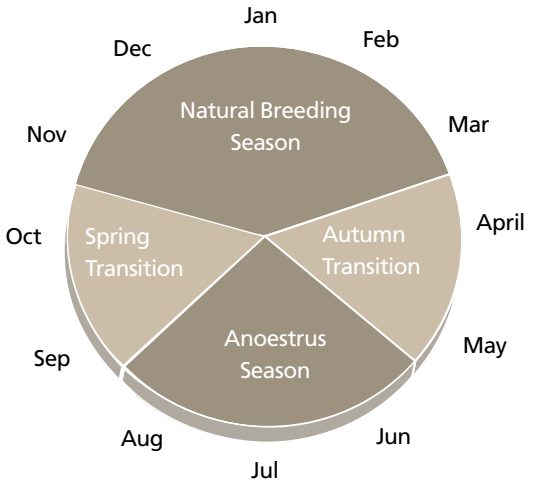
Please read about these programmes and consult your local veterinarian to discuss your specific requirements.

Mare reproduction – timing is everything

Seasonality.

Mares are seasonal breeders, meaning they have regular oestrous cycles during the late spring, summer and early autumn, and do not cycle or produce eggs during winter (anoestrus). At both ends of the breeding season, they go through a transitional period in which they may show signs of heat but do not produce an egg (ovulate). This is caused by changes in day length. Having such a breeding season is nature's way of ensuring foals are not born in the winter.

Seasonality in the mare.



The oestrus cycle

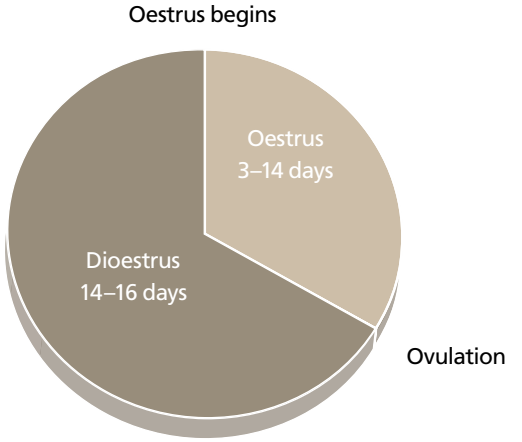
Mares oestrus cycles last for an average of 21 days. They are in heat (oestrus) for 7–14 days during spring and autumn and only 3–4 days in mid-summer.

During oestrus they display certain behaviours when exposed to a stallion and are receptive to mating. Also during this time, an egg matures in one of the mare's ovaries.

At the end of oestrus the egg is released from the ovary; a process called ovulation. Following ovulation, mares are no longer in heat and reject the stallion. This period is called dioestrus and lasts for 14–16 days.

If not mated, or they are mated and fail to conceive, mares return to oestrus and the cycle begins again.

The mare's oestrus cycle.



Pregnancy

Mares must be covered by a stallion or inseminated close to ovulation to conceive. When an egg has been fertilised, mares produce a hormone (progesterone) that stops them coming on heat and helps maintain their pregnancy.

Programmes that manage the oestrus cycle

The mare's reproductive cycle is controlled by hormones. By selectively supplementing these hormones, the cycle of a single mare or a group at stud can be manipulated.

Early season mating.

Thoroughbred breeders and many others want foals in early spring. But, due to winter anoestrus, getting some mares mated early can be difficult. Early return to oestrus can be encouraged by artificial lighting, increased feeding and by supplementing mares with hormones that stimulate oestrus and ovulation.

Timing of mating–AI or stallion service.

Mare oestrus cycles vary markedly. Given this variability, it can be difficult to have stallion service or artificial insemination (AI) appointments coincide with the ideal mating time (ovulation). By supplementing with hormones, it is possible to manage the reproductive cycle. You save time and money on travel, stabling, scanning or palpating, additional semen straws and stud fees. In addition you increase the chances of accurately timing insemination.

Timing of mating is particularly important when only one mare is being sent to stud or AI is being used.

Discuss with your veterinarian the timing of your mare's oestrus cycle and how you can manage early season mating, AI or stallion service. Prescribing Regumate®, Chorulon® and/or Estrumate® may improve timing and cost-effectiveness.