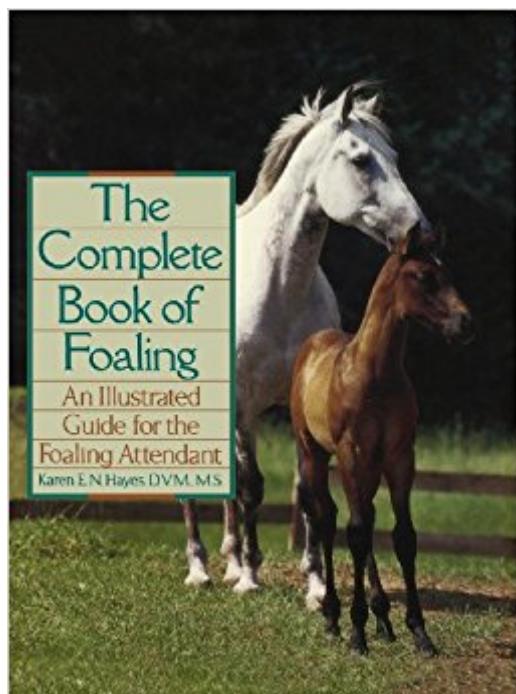


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# The Complete Book Of Foaling: An Illustrated Guide For The Foaling Attendant (Howell Reference Books)



## Synopsis

In Praise of The Complete Book of Foaling""A must read for anybody who has ever thought about breeding a mare.""-Judith Forbis, Ansata Arabian Stud""Brilliantly written reads like a novel, yet beautifully organized so that you can flip to a section at a moment's notice if your mare is in trouble.""-Equus""This book should be included in every foaling kit. In fact, it should never sit on the bookshelf in the house keep it in the barn where you can always get to it in a hurry!""-Modern Horse Breeding""Right away the illustrations set this book apart from any other in its class. Dr. Hayes's ability to teach is the other distinction she has a knack for explaining things in such a way that you understand and remember, and the learning process is fun. I couldn't put the book down until I had read it cover to cover.""-Walter Schimanski, Masada ArabiansThe Howell Equestrian Library is a distinguished collection of books on all aspects of horsemanship and horsemastership. The nearly fifty books in print offer readers in all disciplines and at all levels of competition sound instruction and guidance by some of the most celebrated riders, trainers, judges and veterinarians in the horse world today. Whether your interest is dressage, show jumping or Western riding, or whether it's breeding, grooming or health care, Howell has a book to answer your needs. Get to know all the books in the Howell Equestrian Library: many are modern-day classics and have achieved the status of authoritative references in the estimation of those who ride, train and care for horses.The Howell Equestrian Library

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## Customer Reviews

Designed as a crash course in the foaling process, *The Complete Book of Foaling* is equally valuable for veteran horsemen and for people who have never seen a foal born. Dr. Karen Hayes, an equine veterinarian with a specialty in reproduction, explains how to handle a foaling?any foaling, regardless of how easy or how complicated it may turn out to be. Her feeling is that if we know what is happening inside the mare during the late stages of pregnancy and labor, we will understand what is normal and be able to recognize when something goes wrong. She takes us through the whole process step by step, from three weeks before foaling, through the new baby's first twelve hours. She even has a section on how to predict when the foaling will occur, so the designated attendant will be sure to be there when it happens. Since most foals are born at night, and it may be difficult to get help when it's needed, this book, with its 150 photographs and diagrams, can be the source of information and reassurance the foaling attendant needs. *The Complete Book of Foaling* not only teaches how to troubleshoot problems but also explains why a problem has occurred and what must be done to correct it. Dr. Hayes knows that the foaling process can be scary and exciting at the same time. She wants to make it the exhilarating and positive experience it is meant to be by contributing not just her expertise but that of "the silent and patient teachings of the mares and foals" she attended. "The horses are the real authors," she says. "I am privileged to be their interpreter."

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Of the books I have read, I probably could have gotten by with only this one to guide me through the foaling process. Dr. Hayes has created a very well written book for anyone to read ... from the layman to others in the veterinary field. The book is quite well organized, with each section covering different crucial stages of foaling, from knowing when she's going to foal through the first 12 hours. Photographs are appropriately placed in order to educate the reader about what ever physical aspect of foaling, from signs, to birth positions, to milking the mare. Personally, I found the organization to be quite a nice touch. There are lists and charts at the end of the book to help you organize the information you've just read. Some issues aren't entirely talked about ... each veterinarian has their own opinions, and Dr. Hayes has her own about vaccines and worming and the such. As always, take the more medical aspects of foaling over with your own veterinarian and decide on what you feel is best.

Being first time horse owners, we were surprised to find out that one of our new broodmares was expecting a foal. Having been pasture bred, we had no expecting dates to go off of other than the ones given by the vet after performing an ultrasound. I had a lot to learn in a short period of time and this book was mentioned in a forum somewhere on my Internet travels. It was easy to follow and very detailed, almost too much regarding all of the possible situations in which a foal would need help being delivered. I was a bit paranoid for sure as there is really no way a vet can be there in time unless they live next door. Within a week of the expected delivery, the birthing pen was prepared, the monitoring system hooked up, and the foaling kit complete and organized. The only problem, my mare didn't read the book (I gave her a stern talking to). Even though I checked her twice a day for all the "signs," she wound up having the foal in the pasture. My husband fed the aggressively hungry mare at 8:30 am (losing appetite is one of the signs) and an hour later at 9:30 am (foals are typically born before dawn) saw a new colt standing next to her. Since my husband did not read the book (relied on me to provide the Cliff Notes), I was able to confidently walk him through all of the after foaling "must do's" until I got home from work. I gave four stars as I would like to see the book updated (printed in 1993) and include foaling after care like how much and what to feed the mare before weaning for good, quality milk production, when to expect the foal to begin eating solid food (mine began eating mama's hay by week two and I didn't know if this was "normal"), and how to care for a youngster with foal

diarrhea, as opposed to how to prevent it, (didn't have an opportunity to clean the udder before nursing) as this was very nerve-wracking and scary. All-in-all, an absolute must-have reference guide.

The book delivers what you would expect from the title. If you decide to have a foal, then you must be prepared to handle any situation that could arise. I have read many books on this subject. This one covers every situation that could possibly go wrong. The picture illustrations show several foal dystocia positions. Exact instruction on how to correct each one is easy to understand. The foaling kit, as well as what to have with you when you enter the stall to check the position of the foal. There is a small window of opportunity here. If you miss this stage right after the water breaks, then do not check her. I see many foaling videos online and almost all are from people who have no clue what they are doing. I even saw a video where the attendant cut the umbilical cord with a knife. Being prepared gives you peace of mind. I thought I knew everything until I read this book. Now I understand how a simple correction, will allow the foal to pass through the birth canal with ease.

Great resource! I suggest you buy this ahead of time so that you can learn what is right (and what is wrong) before the birth is looking you in the face. Well-illustrated and clearly written, this book is a must-have for the expectant owner.

#### Life saver

I was a bit terrified to experience my first foal arrival with a maiden mare and I purchased this book upon recommendation from a horse breeder and vet. I studied the book well to prepare myself for everything leading up and to the big event. This is truly the completed guide to foaling and you'll know how to recognise an emergency after reading. Of course there is a lot of information on the web, but I put my trust in Dr Hayes. My own copy of this book is dog eared and ready for another read next time I venture into breeding again. I highly recommend this book.

I bought this book because I am a little rusty on my foaling ability (it's been a few years) The book was very very thorough and had a lot of illustrations and pictures. Unfortunately in black and white however... It's a good book to get back in the swing of things although it is outdated. I have heard "Blessed are the broodmares" is a very very good book as well. That will be my next purchase! I like this book and would recommend it in conjunction with another book, Alone however as I said it is a bit

dated and would need supplementation

I bought this book (along with quite a few others!) 2 years ago as I entered my third foaling season. In my opinion, this book is the only one you need. Even having attended a few foalings, I am always looking to further my knowledge. I wish I had bought the book before my very first foaling! The author does discuss a LOT of the things that can go wrong, but I would rather be well prepared for an emergency that might never happen, than to pretend like nothing can go wrong. It has really good info about the signs that foaling is approaching. I read this book going into the '09 season and have re-read it every season since to refresh myself. I have purchased 2 additional copies for fellow breeders as gifts and have recommended it to anyone I know who is new at attending foalings. I really can't say enough about how informative this book is!

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