



**FOALGUARD LIVESTOCK  
MONITORING SYSTEMS™**



## **FOALING ALARM INSTRUCTIONS**

**It is very important that you read the instructions fully and carefully before use**

Firstly check the contents of your foaling alarm kit.

You should have.

- 1 x Receiver
- x Transmitter in pouch
- 1 x Power lead
- 1 x Receiver Aerial
- x 9 volt Battery

Your foaling alarm works when the mare lies down in the foaling position, a signal is sent from a transmitter attached to the mare's halter, to the receiver, sounding an alarm to alert the attendant. It can also be used as a colic alert.

### **Receiver Instructions**

1. Take your receiver aerial and screw it on to the aerial holder at the top centre of your foaling alarms receiver.
2. Plug the power lead into the back of the receiver. Then plug the lead into your mains power outlet and switch the power on.
3. Flick the ALARM switch to the 'ON' position.
4. Turn the receiver on by flicking the POWER switch to the ON, position. The green power light should now be on. Your foaling alarms receiver is now armed and ready for use.
5. To turn the receiver off flick the POWER switch to the OFF position.
6. When the alarm is activated by the transmitter (when the mare lies down) a siren will sound and the Alarm and Activated lights will turn on.
7. When the transmitters signal is turned off (when the mare gets up) the siren and alarm light will turn off. The Activated light will stay on to let you know that the alarm has been activated. If you have been away from the receiver and come back to find the activated light ON then you should check your mare
8. To reset the Activated light press the PUSH OFF button above the activated light once the light will turn off and will only turn on again if a signal is received from the transmitter.

### **External Aerial Instructions (Optional Extra)**

We can supply a 3.6m aerial extension cable, if you need to mount the aerial at a higher location or outdoors. (Please read 'Testing Your Foaling Alarm' before you decide to purchase and install the extension cable). You will only need to use the extension cable if you are having trouble with signal strength due to obstructions or undulation of the ground between the transmitter and the receiver. If you can not get a signal even with the external cable you may need a repeater to cure any obstruction or distance problems in this case please contact us for assistance

1. At the back of your foaling alarms receiver connect the extension cable.
2. Run the cable to an elevated location and attach the aerial bracket securely to a solid object either a roof or aerial pole. (You may need an aerial technician or handy man/woman for this job)
3. Screw the receiver aerial to the aerial bracket.
4. Your foaling alarm runs on 433MHz **DO NOT USE ANY OTHER FREQUENCY AERIAL** Please consult us if you want to use a different Aerial. If an incorrect aerial is fitted it can cause alarm failure.

Your foaling alarms receiver is now ready to use and test with the external aerial.

### **To operate the sleep function.**

The sleep function is for use when your mare lays down to sleep, without the sleep function you would have to either leave your alarm on while the siren sounded or stay awake until your mare sat or stood up before you could switch your alarm back on. The sleep function works by activating a 30 minute (approx) timer at the end of this time your alarm will become active again. Most mares will not sleep on there side for more than 30 minutes. Majority of mares do not like to sleep on there side when they are very close to foaling, but there are quite a few out there that do.

1. Flick the ALARM switch to the SILENT position.
2. To activate the sleep timer, push the timer button at the top left front of your foaling alarms receiver. You have just activated the 30 minute sleep timer. No siren will sound until the timer is finished. The ALARM light will stay on until the mare sits or stands up. **(PLEASE NOTE** If you have 2 or more mares with transmitters and you activate the silent sleep function no siren will sound for any mare.
3. To over ride the sleep timer, if you have pressed it by accident or just want to have your alarm audible again, just flick the ALARM switch to the ON position. You will now be able to hear the siren if it is activated. Your timer will still be active until the full 30 minutes have passed.
4. As a failsafe when the sleep timer is off, it does not matter where the alarm switch is set too, the alarm will still sound the siren, if it receives a signal from a transmitter. **(NOTE:** When the power is first turned on the timer may activate, so ensure the ALARM switch is in the ON position to hear if the alarm is triggered.

### **Transmitter Instructions**

Your transmitter runs on a 9 volt #216 battery (use a good quality alkaline or better), you will need to install the battery to arm the transmitter.

The life of the battery under constant load (constantly sending a signal to the receiver) is 3 hours with a standard battery, longer with a good quality alkaline battery. This means that, while your mare is in an upright position there is no drain on the battery, any time your mare lays down, the transmitter will send a signal to the receiver and therefore the battery is in use. Majority of mares do not lay down often in the final stages of pregnancy. But there are a few out there, that do lay down to sleep and this will drain the battery.

Most foaling alarm failures are caused by low or flat batteries in the transmitter.

A low battery will decrease the distance the signal can travel and cause failures. If you think your mare has laid down for a total of 3 hours your battery will be getting low and will need replacing. We advise that you replace the battery once it drops to 6 volts (3 hours of activation).

If you are unsure how often your mare lays down you can test the battery with a battery testing devise available at most electronic or hardware stores. When you are not using your transmitter remove the battery and store the transmitter in a safe place. Install a new battery at the start of each use and do a quick field test to ensure the battery is working correctly.

Please Note: Non alkaline and cheap poor quality batteries may have a shorter life.

### **Installing the battery**

1. Unfasten the two Velcro straps from around the transmitter pouch
2. Open the transmitter pouch to reveal the transmitter.
3. Find the sliding battery compartment and open it.
4. Inside you will find a battery terminal, connect the battery firmly to the terminal
5. Place the battery flat in the battery compartment ensuring the terminal wires are not hanging out.
6. Replace the sliding battery cover, making sure it is properly closed.
7. Replace the transmitter back into the pouch. Ensure battery compartment is facing upwards. Remember which end the battery compartment is and when attaching to the halter this end goes closest to the nose of the horse.
8. Ensure the Velcro fasteners line up to keep the transmitter weather proof.

Your transmitter is now ready to fit to a halter

### **Fitting your transmitter**

Your transmitter will fit to any size halter Miniature to Full. Please only use a standard halter, if the transmitters are fitted to rope halters or halters with a sliding jaw strap they will not sit correctly on the halter and you will get false alarms and risk draining the battery.

1. Unfasten the Velcro halter and cuff straps on the pouch.
2. Position the pouch under the lower jaw strap, with the battery compartment end facing upwards and closest to the nose of the horse.( If the transmitter is upside down or back to front it will give excessive false alarms and also may fail to go off when your mare foals.)
3. Fasten the canvas cuff around the jaw strap.
4. Then fasten the two Velcro straps firmly over the cuff.
5. You want the transmitter to sit flat with the battery end tilted forward the same angle as the horses lower jaw and **not on an angle to either side.**
6. Please see the picture below as an example of a correctly fitted transmitter. Unfortunately the halters I took to our photo shoot, did not fit our lovely model so please excuse this :o)



**Just one more step and you are ready for your foal.**

## Testing your Foaling Alarm

Before you place the halter and the transmitter on your mare you need to know, that no matter where your mare lays down to foal, the signal from the transmitter is going to reach the receiver.

1. Turn your receiver on
2. Make sure the battery is full and is firmly connected in the transmitter
3. Tilt the transmitter on its side and wait for approximately 10 seconds, the siren on the receiver will sound and the alarm light will turn on. When the transmitter is tilted back to its normal position the siren and alarm light will turn off.
4. You will need a helper with the next step and a walkie talkie or mobile phone is handy. If you don't have a helper either turn your walkie talkie to VOX so you can hear when the alarm sounds or ring your land line up from your mobile phone and leave the handpiece near the receiver.
5. Go for a walk around the area where you want the transmitter to work.
6. At short intervals lay the transmitter on the ground, then tilt it on its side, simulating the mare laying down, wait approx 10 seconds and the siren should sound. It is important to test it behind sheds, trees and any visible obstruction. It is also important to do the test with the transmitter on the ground. If you test the transmitter even one foot off the ground you will not get an accurate test. Make sure you test around dam banks, behind hills or in hollows as they may cause the signal to fail. The sound you should hear is a beeping siren similar to a smoke detector if you get long pauses between the beeps or no sound at all it means the signal is weak and unreliable. In this case you may need to install the external cable or you may need a repeater. If you need any assistance please contact us. Please ensure you test your foaling area thoroughly across the entire foaling area to make sure there are no dead spots where transmission is blocked. It may take some time to do this but it is worth it.
7. Any time you use the transmitter or receiver in a new location you need to perform this test to ensure the signal will be received.

## IMPORTANT NOTES:

### Multiple transmitters.

If 2 or more mares lay down, at the same moment the signal can be blocked or disrupted, causing an intermittent siren. Please ensure you check all mares when the alarm is activated.

### Electrical storms and heavy rain

Electrical storms, very high humidity and heavy rain interfere with your foaling alarms signal, the same as it can cause poor reception on radio and TV transmission. During poor weather it is wise to check your mare and or perform a paddock test with your alarm to ensure your alarm is working.

**Handy hint:** If your mare has access to water that she can swim in, place a zip lock sandwich bag over the transmitter case, seal it firmly and then put it in the pouch. This will ensure your transmitter is water proof.

We hope you enjoy your FoalGuard Alarm.

If you need any assistance please contact us on 03-5342-2206 or email [sales@foalguard.com](mailto:sales@foalguard.com)

**Note:** Mobile phone diallers are now available for your foaling alarm, ask us about them today.

**Disclaimer:** Please be aware that this is an electronic devise, failures can occur and we can not guarantee that the alarm will work under all circumstances. This foaling alarm is designed as an aid to be used in conjunction with careful horse management. FoalGuard, and it's proprietors will not be held liable for any loss or damage to livestock or property due to product failure.