



Thinking of hiring a recipient from Equibreed UK? They are all great characters and are all special to us in their own way! This information leaflet aims to answer some frequently asked questions concerning the rental of recipient mares.

Why is the lease fee so expensive?

In order to run a herd of recipient mares Equibreed UK has to cover the costs of keeping the mares all year round, maintaining their health status, and looking after those that do not get pregnant in the winter. We understand that it can be cheaper to simply buy a mare from the market, but with no information on her background, her reproductive status, or her abilities as a broodmare, it can end up being a more expensive option.

Will she already have had a foal before?

Not necessarily. Although we do try to use multi-parous mares where possible, maiden mares often have a higher chance of getting pregnant first time round - hence why we are not biased against them. The majority of maiden mares do not have an issue foaling down, although as for any foaling mare, we would recommend that the mare is supervised during birth.

Do I need to look after her in any special way?

No - she is just the same as any pregnant mare. Her vaccinations, worming (with an approved wormer for pregnant mares), and foot trimming should be kept up to date. All of our recipient mares are vaccinated for Influenza and you will be responsible for keeping her up to date with her vaccinations. If her vaccinations lapse whilst she is with you then you will be charged for restarting the course.

What vaccinations does she need?

All of our recipient mares are vaccinated annually for influenza and tetanus. Please ensure that she is kept up to date with her vaccinations, If they lapse whilst she is with you then you will be charged for restarting the course.

Some clients decide to vaccinate their mares for Equine Herpes Virus – given at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation. Herpes can cause abortion and hence is worth vaccinating for, especially if there is a lot of movement of horses on and off the yard, or if the pregnant mares come into contact with young-stock on a frequent basis.

What should I feed her?

The mares are ideally maintained on adlib forage - whether grass, hay or haylage.

We recommend that mares should be supplemented with a concentrate during the last third of pregnancy, to ensure that the growing foal has all the vitamins and minerals that it needs and to ensure that the mare is capable of producing significant quantities of milk.

How long do I keep her for?

Once picked up at 42 days pregnant, in most cases the mares are then with the client until the foal is weaned at 6 months of age.

Once the foal is weaned, the mare can be returned to Equibreed UK at the end of the following February.

Can I take her before 42days of gestation?

We are happy for the mares to go at any time, but in the case that she is taken before 42 days the liability stays with the client in the event that the mare loses the pregnancy.

If the mare is not returned in the same condition (body condition, foot condition, vaccination status, etc.) in which she left Equibreed the full cost of returning her to that state will be payable by the person named in the rental agreement.

Any loss of passports will also be at the hirer's expense.

