EQUINE REPRODUCTION

The staff members put their heads together and successfully created an automatic milk feeder, which allowed the foal access to frequently dispensed milk rations without the milk replacer being administered by finger-sucking. Schroeder said the clinic staff has tried a variety of pumps and believes the 2000 Clock Base Chemical Feed System, which comes with a timer, works well, Schroeder said.

Tools

- A peristaltic dosing pump with a timer.
- A compact refrigerator
- A receptacle.
- Standpipe tubing that came with your pump to the end of the intake hose that rests in the milk receptacle.
- A box cutter.
- A Phillips head screwdriver.
- A ¼ inch drill bit.

Step 1: Decide whether you want to mount your pump on the top or the side of the refrigerator. A small plastic trash can works well as a receptacle. This container is optional.

Step 2: Determine where you want the suction hose to enter the refrigerator. Mark that location with your marker; Schroeder typically places her hoses through the door of the refrigerator, and the pump's output port needs to be adjacent to a wall socket.

Step 3: Drill the hole for the intake hose. Measure and cut the tubing for your intake hose—enough to run from the pump's input port to the very bottom of the milk receptacle. Attach the tubing to the intake hose. Then, mount the pump and container to your refrigerator. This is the most complex piece of equipment you'll need.

Step 4: Put the refrigerator in place. Place the container and pump in the refrigerator, and mark that location with your marker; Schroeder typically places her hoses through the door of the refrigerator, and the pump's output port needs to be adjacent to a wall socket.

Step 5: Put the intake hose in place.

Step 6: Attach your remaining tubing to the pump's output port. Then, run the tubing to the milk receptacle. If you're using a 3/8 inch standpipe tube, you may need to cut and replace it; it will likely need to be replaced every few years, but that all the pump's components can be replaced.

Step 7: Set the timer to dispense milk. Some pumps have a timer already programmed, but you may need to do some troubleshooting. For example, the pump might be timed to dispense milk every 2 hours, but only stores 24 programmed cycles to memory so the internal clock would have to be reset to work. Other pumps may need to be set to run for 30 to 60 seconds—when you first turn it on, it may not have enough power to run the whole cycle.

Step 8: Plug it and the pump in, program the pump, fill the receptacle with distilled water before using it on the next foal.

Step 9: When you're ready to start building, start gathering the supplies you'll need:

What You'll Need

- A compact refrigerator
- A small plastic trash can
- A peristaltic dosing pump with a timer
- Standpipe tubing that came with your pump
- A box cutter
- A Phillips head screwdriver
- A ¼ inch drill bit
- A 10 in Salt Lake City, Utah, Waller veterinarian Jenni Schroeder, DVM, shared that, when dealing with an orphan foal, horse owners should work with their veterinarian to manage the foal on the machine, ensure the amount and frequency fed is correct, and to ensure the foal is gaining weight appropriately and is otherwise healthy.

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