

Uterine Lavage for Poitou Donkey Jennets

Dr. Keith Youngblood, DVM, Youngblood Equine, Grandview, TX

Poitou jennets often harbor uterine infections without showing any symptoms. These infections can prevent them from getting pregnant or from maintaining a pregnancy. Farms using the uterine lavage protocol described here have seen improved rates of conception rate, even for jennies that have not had foals in a long time.

The lavage protocol described below should be performed **two weeks prior** to exposure to the jack or artificial insemination.

Discuss with your veterinarian the need for vaginal and uterine lavage for your Poitou jennet if you plan to breed her.

Protocol

1. Using a 36 French balloon catheter, perform 3 lavages of the jennet's uterus.
 - a. Lavage with 1 liter of Normosol-R Electrolyte Replacement <https://equimed.com/drugs-and-medications/reference/normosol-r-electrolyte-replacement> with 3 ml betadine added
 - b. Lavage with 1 liter of Normosol-R plain (no Betadine)
 - c. Lavage with 1 liter of Normosol-R with 1 gram ampicillin and 1 gram gentamicin added. Leave ½ liter in uterus. The jennet will expel this.
2. Two hours after the last lavage, administer 2 ml oxytocin intramuscularly (IM) every two hours (q2) for three treatments.