What is Birth Alarm?
Birth Alarm consists of a transmitter and a receiver. The transmitter is attached to an anti-roll girth which is placed around the horse’s withers. The mare experiences no discomfort whatsoever from the leather girth. The transmitter has a range of over 500 yards, but you can extend this distance by connecting it, for example, to a beeper. The transmitter is waterproof, so the system is also ideal for births that take place out-of-doors.

You set the receiver in the desired place, for example in the bedroom, and plug it in. A 12-volt adapter is available for isolated locations.

How Does Birth Alarm Work?
It is not normal for a mare in the late stages of gestation to lie totally on her side when resting. Normally speaking, she rests in a half-lying, sitting, or even standing position. The position in which she lies totally on her flank is unique and is utilized only during the expulsion phase of the birth process. There is, however, a group of mares (approximately 10%) that do rest in the totally lateral position, and these form an exception to this rule. For this group of mares, Birth Alarm is equipped with a special setting which enables it to detect and report the onset of delivery in all cases without exception.

Birth Alarm can be adjusted to two different settings: 4a and 4b.
- Setting 4a is for the standard situation in which the totally lateral position is a unique occurrence, i.e., the mare does not rest in this position.
- Setting 4b is provided for the group of mares that rest in the same position they assume during contractions.

The Horse:
Totally at ease with man and a cherished domestic animal. And despite this “fraternization between horse and man,” a mare in foal displays surprisingly instinctive reactions. She is wary: she feels instinctively that the expulsion of the foal puts her in a highly vulnerable situation. It is, in fact, strongly suspected that the mare is capable of delaying the birth, for example, until she feels totally undisturbed and at ease. A variety of phenomena can signal the commencement of the delivery itself, but these signals can just as well be absent or else barely discernable.

The expulsive forces in the birth of a foal are indeed very intense. And research has shown that during the contractions the mare lies down totally on its flank for a shorter or longer period of time. In this totally lateral position the mare is able to absorb the intense contractions and increase the expulsive power. Birth Alarm is based on this physiological phenomenon.
For most late term mares, lying completely on their side is unique to the birth process. In order to gather and focus the strength for a contraction, the mare lies down in the totally lateral position. Research has established that a contraction lasts a minimum of 7 seconds. The transmitter registers this position and the alarm is activated after 7.6 seconds.

1) The mare lies down in the totally lateral position to rest. The alarm will not activate although the receiver does indicate that the mare is on her side and the transmitter is sending a signal. If the mare is still lying in this position after three minutes the Birth Alarm registers that the mare is resting and the system is neutralized.

Suppose that after half an hour the mare gets up and then once again lies down on her side. The Birth Alarm again registers the position for a period of three minutes. The period of three minutes is not arbitrary. Research has shown that a mare’s contraction never lasts longer than 2.5 minutes. The Birth Alarm system is based on a period of 3 minutes - a safety margin of 0.5 minutes.

2) Before delivery, the mare lies down flat on her side. The alarm does not go off after 7.6 seconds as the system is set on 4b but the receiver does register that the mare is lying in this position. After the contraction the mare will prepare herself for the following contraction. She does this by coming out of a the totally lateral position. If the Birth Alarm registers this movement within a period of 3 minutes after the mare has laid down, the alarm activates.
Colic Alert

Birth Alarm can also be utilized as a warning device for horses that are suffering from colic. The Mode 4c colic setting is delivered as a standard function with Birth Alarm.

Accessories
Do you have several mares that will be foaling during the same period? You can connect a number of different transmitters to one receiver.

Extra Buzzer
You want to install an extra buzzer? You can amplify the alarm signal by means of an external bell equipped with 80 feet of cable.

Telephone selector
You want to be alerted via the telephone or beeper? This can be done by installing a telephone selector. Simple and effective.

Experts evaluate Birth Alarm:
Birth Alarm has been tested by scientific institutions for equine research, horse clinics and large stud farms. The results in practice have also been very positive.

Birth Alarm is available from:
Birth Alarm USA 800 581-8666