

# Equine Science Update e-news

Reports from the world of equine science.

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- **First suckling influences behavior.**

Research from France may change the way we manage newborn foals. Scientists have found that helping the foal to find the teat can influence the foal's behavior as it grows up.

Foals that were brought to their dams to suck for the first time behaved differently at 1 - 3 months of age. They tended to stay closer to their mothers and spend less time playing with their fellows. In contrast, foals that had been allowed to suck spontaneously seemed more independent. They were more playful and were more likely to leave their dams to play and explore the environment.

