**Table S1:** The demographics of the mares included in the study

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mare | Breed | Age (years) | Height (hands) | Foaling due date | Date foaled | Days between foaling and T-3  | Days between foaling and T-1  | bred post foaling |
| 1 | TB | 13 | 16 | 22/05/2014 | 25/05/2014 | 18 | 4 | Yes |
| 2 | TBX | 13 | 16.2 | 11/06/2014 | 15/06/2014 | 18 | 4 | No |
| 3 | TBX | 10 | 16.1 | 20/06/2014 | 04/06/2014 | 14 | 1 | Yes |
| 4 | WB | 7 | 16.1 | 22/06/2014 | 20/06/2014 | 16 | 2 | No |
| 5 | TBX | 12 | 16.1 | 2/07/2014 | 26/6/2014 | 16 | 1 | No |

TB = Thoroughbred, TBX = Thoroughbred cross, WB = Warmblood, T-3 = 1st set of samples collected, T-1 = samples collected just before foaling