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Artificial Insemination

Terminology

Artificial insemination (AI) at BRVC refers to the deposition of "fresh" semen into the vaginal canal. Other commonly used terms include "fresh AI" or "side-by-side AI". In my office, this procedure is simply termed: "AI". An insemination with chilled or frozen semen is identified by defining the type of semen used: i.e., "chilled semen insemination" or "frozen semen insemination"

Procedure

The stud dog and bitch are brought to BRVC for an appointment together. Semen is usually collected with both dogs in the exam room, unless the owner requests differently. Semen is evaluated for motility, an estimation of concentration, and evaluation of sperm morphology. A written semen evaluation is not provided at this time. The bitch is properly positioned with her hindquarters elevated and the semen is deposited in the cranial portion of her vaginal canal. To enhance the positioning of the insemination pipette, a vaginoscope is often used. After the procedure, the bitch can resume all normal activity.

Semen extender

At times, if the semen is marginal in quality, a semen extender can be added to enhance motility. The extender also contains antibiotics, so it is also used if there are WBC in the semen. Semen extender is not included in the basic AI fee.

Progesterone testing

To increase the likelihood of conception, progesterone testing is essential to determine if the bitch has ovulated. If progesterone testing has not been done by the time of the AI, it is recommended to do a progesterone test at that time. Results will not be available until the next day, however, we can determine retrospectively if we seem to be on track with the timing. We also use that value to tell if we should perform a second AI within 24-48 hours.