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PLANNING A BREEDING WITH FRESH CHILLED SEMEN BITCH OWNER CONSIDERATIONS

Why to use fresh chilled semen?

Fresh chilled semen is used when the dog is not local or available for a side by side artificial insemination or a natural breeding. It is an excellent alternative to fresh semen with an equal conception rate if done properly.

Prebreeding Exam

If at all possible, please schedule a pre-breeding exam to plan the breeding and to be sure insemination with chilled semen is a reasonable option for this bitch. We will also review instructions for ovulation timing (please read handouts on ovulation timing and progesterone testing protocols).

Breeding Plan

Two inseminations 24-48 hours apart are planned on the basis of ovulation timing results. This will require two separate semen collections and shipments for delivery within 24-48 hours (usually Fed Ex).

Kits and Extender

I recommend the Synbiotics Fresh Express kits which can be ordered by calling Synbiotics directly at 800-228-4305. These need to be sent to the collecting veterinarian in advance so instructions can be reviewed and ice packs frozen. It is also acceptable to use kits of another brand if the veterinarian has those already available for use.

Semen Collection

If this procedure is new to either the stud dog or the collecting veterinarian, a test-collection is recommended. Semen is collected and packaged, as if for a chilled semen breeding, but held at the veterinary office and evaluated after 24 and 48 hours for viability. This will ensure the dog's semen is of sufficient quality for chilling, the dog can be collected without a teaser bitch, and that the veterinarian is familiar with the process.

Communication

Please forward the "Guidelines for Preparing Chilled Semen Shipment" to the client or veterinarian doing the collection. It is most efficient for me to deal with the bitch owner directly and have you contact the stud dog owner regarding timing for shipment, sending kits, etc. It is usually not necessary for me to communicate with the collecting veterinarian directly.



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Insemination choices

Transcervical insemination (TCI) is the preferred method of insemination because it delivers the highest dose of semen into the reproductive tract beyond the cervix (please see the handout on TCI). In some situations, surgical insemination is requested. This requires general anesthesia, major surgery (similar to a spay), and a 10-14 day recovery period. Vaginal insemination can also be chosen either in combination with TCI (TCI one insemination, vaginal the next) or for both inseminations as an alternative to reduce costs.

My availability

I will make every effort to personally perform the inseminations, unless out of town, at which time experienced veterinarians at the BRVC will be contacted. I will come in on days off and weekends; please be flexible with your timing as my availability on these days can be limited and I often have several procedures to schedule.