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Collection and Processing Procedures for Shipping Chilled Semen

Thank you for participating in the upcoming breeding for which you will be shipping chilled semen to my office. I am providing this information to ensure that we have the highest chance of success with this breeding. To standardize processing procedures, I ask that you please adhere to the following:

Semen collection: If possible, use a "teaser" bitch to increase libido to ensure a good collection. Since many seasoned stud dogs can be collected quite well without a teaser bitch, I leave this decision to you and the stud dog owner. If either the semen motility is under 70% or sperm morphological abnormalities exceeds 40%, please do not ship without approval from me or the bitch owner.

Semen processing:

1. **Fractionation:** Either very carefully fractionate during collection (tube switching technique) or centrifuge to remove all prostatic fluid. While some dogs have semen that does not require this step, usually the removal of prostatic fluid will help maintain semen quality after chilling/shipping. This is essential to some dogs for the semen to chill well at all, and is probably the most important step in processing. If using the Synbiotics Fresh Express kits, you can use the semen separating solution to aid this procedure. Importantly, centrifuge at a low setting (similar to urinalysis) and if possible use a round-bottom centrifuge tube. Remove all of the supernatant leaving the sperm pellet at the bottom.

2. **Adding extender:** You will need to vary this procedure depending on the chilled semen extender you are using. Typically, you will slowly add extender to the semen pellet that remains after the fractionation process. Gently mix before packaging. The quantity will vary depending on the planned insemination procedure:

- TCI or surgical intrauterine insemination with 24 hour shipment: Add enough extender to yield 2-2.5 ml total volume (semen plus extender).
- TCI or surgical intrauterine insemination with 48 hour shipment: Add enough to yield 4-5 ml. Vaginal insemination: Add enough extender to yield 4-5 ml

3. **Transport tube:** Pour semen plus extender mixture into a new transport tube: please label with dog's name, breed, date of collection. Seal with screw-top cap. Wrap OVER the cap with either parafin film or "press and seal" type wrap. Place the tube in plastic bag that can be sealed (ziplock bag).

Packaging: Add ice packs sufficient to keep the package cold for 24-48 hours. Be sure to add enough ice packs: 2 large packs at a minimum. Place the semen tube/baggy either into a styrofoam insulated small box or protect semen tube from touching the ice packs by sufficient packing material. This will keep the semen from freezing.

Ship Fed Ex Express: Priority Overnight (deliver at my office by 10:30 am weekdays and noon on Saturdays). If shipping out on a Friday--BE SURE to check the box for SATURDAY delivery. If shipping out on a Saturday for delivery on Monday, just check the priority overnight box and it will arrive Monday am.

Ship to: **Dr. Janice Cain, Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center, 2000 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583 phone: 925-866-8387**

Please note: either use a credit card/fed ex account to pay for shipment or charge to the shipper. DO NOT charge to recipient (my office).

Please give tracking number to the stud owner to relay to the bitch owner.