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### **PRE-BREEDING EXAM: FEMALE**

#### **WHY WE RECOMMEND A PRE-BREEDING EXAM:**

A pre-breeding exam is helpful when planning to breed a maiden bitch, or when planning to use chilled or frozen semen for any breeding. It is especially important when planning to breed a bitch that has a history of unsuccessful or problematic breedings, pregnancy or whelping.

#### **WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:**

For bitches that have been bred in the past, any information about those breedings is helpful. This includes breeding dates, progesterone results, other lab data, ultrasound reports, and information regarding the semen or dog used.

#### **WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR APPOINTMENT:**

An evaluation of medical and reproductive history. A general examination and reproductive examination. Often this will include vaginoscopy to be certain the vaginal canal is normal anatomically and free from infection or tumors.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

For those who have good regular veterinary care, they may choose to forego a pre-breeding exam. It is important to understand, however, that most veterinarians do not conduct a thorough breeding exam. Also, at times, we may find an underlying health problem that could be an issue for breeding or pregnancy. Dr. Cain does accept cases for reproductive management that have chosen to forego a pre-breeding exam at the owner's request, however Dr. Cain does not accept responsibility for anything that is discovered at the time of breeding that may preclude the dog from being bred at that time.

#### **SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT:**

Ideally schedule an appointment prior to the beginning of proestrus (bleeding). Whenever possible, to improve communication and allow adequate time for questions and decisions, schedule a pre-breeding appointment several weeks in advance of an upcoming breeding when chilled or frozen semen is planned. Due to situations, we understand and accept pre-breeding appointments to coincide with the beginning of progesterone testing--usually about day 5 of the cycle.