



Tularosa Equine Clinic, LLC

There are several reasons why mare owners consider artificially inseminating their mare with chilled or frozen semen. First, the mare does not have to be transported a great distance to be bred. Second, this is the easiest way for a mare to be bred to a valuable stallion. Last, mares can be bred to stallions that are no longer alive.

Artificial insemination (AI) has several advantages for the owners of the stallion and the mare:

- A stallion's ejaculate can be divided and used to breed more than one mare.
- AI eliminates the risks of natural breeding.
- AI reduces the risk of reproductive tract infection in the mare, as opposed to natural service.

With the advent of shipping preserved equine semen, many of the responsibilities that traditionally rested with the stallion's residence farm have shifted to the mare's farm.

Following are some issues to think about if you are considering artificial insemination with chilled or frozen semen:

- ___ You should be aware of your horse's breed registry rules relating to use of chilled or frozen semen. Some breed registries may reject both methods (The Jockey Club), while others may allow breeding with chilled semen but not frozen semen.
- ___ Breeding with frozen semen can be more difficult than with chilled semen. Under ideal conditions, at least 1 billion progressively motile sperm are needed to impregnate a mare with chilled semen. Handling procedures during collection and insemination reduce the number of motile sperm in a semen sample. The fewer sperm in a semen sample, the less chance of a pregnancy.
- ___ Coordination of events among the stallion owner, mare owner and veterinarian is very important.
- ___ We assume you have selected a stallion from a farm that ships semen on a regular basis. If you not aware of their experience, we may be able to help you gather information. Please supply the following information for us:
 - Name of stud farm:
 - Telephone:
 - Farm veterinarian:
 - Vet's phone number:
- ___ To coordinate breeding, we must know when the stallion and mare are available.
 - Dates stallion is not available:
 - Dates mare is not available:
- ___ The mare's heat cycle normally lasts 4-8 days. Ovulation usually occurs toward the end of the cycle. The closer the mare is bred to the time just before ovulation, the better the chance of pregnancy. Timing is crucial.
- ___ Has your mare had any history of vulvar discharge or uterine infection? We should examine her thoroughly, including a uterine culture, before breeding.
- ___ Has your mare been exposed to artificial lights to stimulate cycling?
- ___ Teasing mares by controlled exposure to male horses at least every other day is very helpful in increasing reproductive efficiency. Is teasing practiced on your farm?
- ___ Regularly record on the calendar whether your mare is in heat (I), possibly in heat (I?), out of heat (O).
- ___ A series of rectal and/or ultrasound examinations may be needed to determine the stage of follicle development and the chance of ovulation. These examinations are more critical with the use of frozen or chilled semen.
- ___ Laboratory evaluations of the semen should be done at the breeding site. We will also examine the semen for quality and motility on arrival at the clinic.
- ___ Although the overall costs of chilled or frozen semen may be slightly lower than the cost of natural breeding, significantly more time (yours and ours) is needed for AI than for shipping your mare to the stallion. Estimating the cost of AI can be quite difficult, as many complications can arise. On average, our charges range from \$175 to \$225 per cycle (assuming a 5 day stay).

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