



International Canine Semen Bank – Colorado (ICSB-CO)

Brighton Animal Clinic

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## PREPARING TO BREED YOUR BITCH STEPS TO TAKE FOR SUCCESS

- ❖ **Know the method of breeding that you wish to use:**
  - Natural Breeding; or possible side-by-side A.I.
  - Chilled Semen; shipped overnight, generally FedEx
  - Frozen Semen; stored either locally or at another center
- ❖ **Make arrangements with the stud owner** to be prepared to ship semen to your veterinarian or authorize the release of frozen semen to your veterinarian. Make sure you fully understand the costs involved.
- ❖ **As the bitch owner, you will be expected to pay for several things in addition to the stud fee.** Generally you will need to pay for the cost of the Puppy Paks for chilled semen in addition to the collection of the dog and shipment of the semen. Plan on two breedings. For a frozen semen breeding there is a charge for the release of the frozen semen from the storage facility, rental of the shipping dewar and shipping charges for overnight delivery to the veterinarian that will be doing the insemination for you.
- ❖ **Ensure that the veterinarian performing the insemination for you is well versed in the procedure** and comfortable with ovulation timing and using chilled or frozen semen. You also need to completely understand the method of insemination used by the veterinarian.
  - Chilled Semen: vaginal insemination or Trans-Cervical Insemination (TCI)
  - Frozen Semen: surgical insemination or TCI. Vaginal inseminations have been successful with Frozen Semen, however, not felt to acquire normal sized litters.
- ❖ **Contact your veterinarian's office when your bitch comes into season.** Plan to begin ovulation timing on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day of her cycle. It is a good idea to have virgin bitches digitally examined for strictures at this time as well.
- ❖ **Vaginal Cultures:** If your bitch has a history of vaginal infections or the stud owner requires this, you should have this done on the **FIRST** day of your bitch's cycle. Remember, it can take 3 – 5 days to get the results.
- ❖ **MYCOPLASMA:** Should be done 3 – 4 weeks prior to breeding as it can take as long as 3 weeks to get a negative result.
- ❖ **Ovulation timing requires progesterone testing and LH testing.** These are blood tests that are drawn every other or every day. Be sure that your veterinarian is using a laboratory test to check progesterone. In-house test kits are completely unreliable. *Samples may be sent to our office via FedEx using the Ovulation Protocol available from our office staff. Results will be available the same day we receive the sample.*
- ❖ **Be prepared to make arrangements for shipment** if "Mother Nature" throws you a curve ball and you need the semen on a holiday or weekend! Be aware that most airlines will not allow counter-to-counter shipments unless you are a "Known Shipper". Many times, we must use the services of a courier service.
- ❖ **Be prepared to "bend with the wind"** in case your bitch does not follow the book! Sometimes breedings require weekend breedings, late night breedings and even holiday breedings.

Be committed to working with your veterinarian to have a successful breeding.