

FRESH EXPRESS[®] CANINE CHILLED SEMEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INSEMINATING VETERINARIAN

PERFORMING FRESH CHILLED SEMEN AI IN THE BITCH

Performing The Artificial Insemination

In fresh chilled semen breedings, 2 inseminations should be performed during the fertile period, usually on days 4 and 6 post-serum LH peak. By properly planning multiple inseminations, you'll optimize the chances of success.

(The *Synbiotics Fresh Chilled Semen Breeding Training Manual* contains more details on timing procedures and insemination technique).

1. The semen should be inseminated within 15 minutes after removal from the chilled package. Gently rotate the tube to resuspend the sperm cells, as they tend to settle out. Evaluate a drop of the semen for motility.
2. Draw 3ml of air into the syringe (to clear the pipette at the end of the insemination).
3. Draw all the semen into the syringe and attach the pipette.
4. Have the bitch on a table or on the floor, depending on her size and what you and the dog are comfortable with. Make sure an assistant is available to restrain her as necessary.
5. Spread the labia and pass the tip of the insemination pipette dorsally toward the vaginal opening, ventral to the rectum. The pipette should be in an almost vertical direction at this stage. To further pass the pipette, redirect it in a horizontal position and gently advance it toward the cervix. The vaginal folds may produce temporary but may be avoided by spinning and rolling the pipette as it is advanced.
6. The pipette tip will usually stop at the dorsal fold of the anterior vagina. It is recommended, but not necessary to advance beyond the dorsal fold. Do this by applying slight pressure in a ventral direction while advancing the pipette. The insemination pipettes are marked at 5cm intervals. The pipette should be advanced as far as possible. Generally, in most giant bitches, the pipette should be passed a full 25cm. In large bitches, pass the pipette 22-24cm.

In small to medium bitches, advance the pipette 15-18cm. In toy breeds, pass the pipette 5-10cm, or just past the first mark. Check the position of the pipette by abdominal palpation. In many bitches you can feel the cervix, which should be just cranial to the tip of the insemination pipette.

7. Elevate the hindquarters of the bitch.
8. Keeping the hindquarters elevated, turn the syringe vertically with the plunger in the uppermost position, and inject the inseminant, finishing with the air left in the syringe to clear the pipette.
9. Withdraw the pipette, keeping the bitch's hindquarters elevated.
10. Gently stimulate the vaginal wall with gloved finger for 5 minutes ("feathering").
11. Keep the hindquarters elevated for an additional 5 to 10 minutes after stimulation is completed.

Processing Records

- Return (1) copy of Collection/Insemination record to Collecting Veterinarian.
- Return completed AKC form to the bitch owner, if applicable.

Breeding Follow-Up

It is recommended that a pregnancy diagnosis be made using Witness[®] Relaxin after day 31 post-LH surge (although some dogs may be detected as early as day 20, or by palpation and/or ultrasound at approximately 28 days post-LH surge). Whelping can be expected at approximately 65 days post-LH surge.