

Semen Collection using the Disposable AV

Refer to the Synbiotics *Fresh Chilled Semen Breeding Training Manual* for more complete information on canine semen collection.

1. Attach the narrow end of the disposable plastic AV cone to a 15ml centrifuge tube with 3 rubber tail docking rings (3 rings prevent leaking). Prepare 3 to 5 complete Artificial Vagina's (AV) in this manner. Keep the new AV's in a handy pocket for easy access while fractionating.
2. As erection occurs, pull the sheath behind the bulbus glandis. At the same time, with the other hand, place the plastic AV (with tube attached) over the penis up to but not over the bulbus glandis. This prevents the engorging penis from splitting the plastic at the seams. NOTE: If 50% erection occurs before you have pulled the sheath back, do not force it over the bulbus glandis. Instead, pull the dog off the bitch walk him away allowing his erection to subside. Then bring him back to bitch and this time slide the prepuce back earlier.
3. Reposition your hands providing gentle but constant pressure just proximal to and incorporating the bulbus glandis while the other hand stimulates the penis caudal to the bulbus glandis.
4. Most dogs will thrust initially, coinciding with intromission. After this, they achieve full erection, coinciding with the "tie" and will try to step over your arm. Help the stud by lifting his leg over your arm and turning the penis 180°, so it is directed backwards between his legs.
5. You should be able to visualize the semen as it flows into the clear tube. Most dogs ejaculate in three fractions: (1) an initial clear or slightly cloudy pre-sperm fraction, (2) the sperm-rich fraction (SRF), (3) and a clear fraction of prostatic fluid. The initial clear fraction is released during the period of vigorous thrusting. The SRF should appear thick and white, and is usually released just as vigorous thrusting stops and the stud steps over. The clear prostatic fluid follows in varying amounts (If a teaser bitch is not used, the vigorous thrusting may not be observed.). Switch complete AV's as necessary to collect the SRF by itself. NOTE: Typical dogs produce 0.5-2.0ml of SRF. If the volume collected is more than expected, and you feel the SRF has been contaminated with 0.5ml or more of pre-sperm or prostatic fluid, it will be necessary to use Semen Separating Solution to insure sperm survival over 24 hours.
6. The entire SRF should be collected before stopping. It is not necessary to collect the entire third fraction; save just enough to evaluate for abnormal cells, bacteria, etc.
7. Gently remove the AV from the dog's penis. Check him periodically to make sure the erection subsides (Although it is not needed, you may walk him or apply a cool compress to the penis to speed up this process.). If the penis appears dry, you may apply a sterile lubricant at this stage. His penis should be fully retracted into the sheath before putting him into a cage or with other dogs.