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## ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION - FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN SEMEN?

Thank you for your interest in our artificial insemination services. Every mare is different, so please contact us directly to discuss the particular requirements of your mare. Then we will make an appointment for her to arrive at EquiBreed NZ for her breeding programme. The following information is provided to help you elect the most appropriate strategy to get your mare in foal this season. For more information please visit [www.equibreed.co.nz](http://www.equibreed.co.nz).

**Fresh semen** is collected from the stallion, extended in a special skim milk diluent and inseminated into the mare immediately (or usually within 1-2h). Fresh semen from a fertile stallion should survive in the mare for 2 days. Ideally the mare should be inseminated 1-2 days before she ovulates. Fresh semen is ideal for mature mares of all ages and is the semen of choice for less fertile or problem mares or older mares (> 14yo).

**Chilled semen** is collected from the stallion, extended with the special diluent and then cooled gently to 4°C in a specially designed Equitainer. Sometimes this semen may be shipped in purpose built styrofoam boxes that are good for same day delivery. If the stallion is fertile and the semen is handled carefully, then the semen should last for 1-2 days and retain good fertility. We usually try to inseminate the mare within 1 day prior to her ovulating to optimise fertility. Therefore it is important that all contracts with the stallion owner are confirmed and agreed upon before we need to order the semen! Chilled semen is ideal for mature mares and if the stallion has a record of good fertility then it is also suitable for less fertile mares or older mares (> 14yo).

**Frozen semen** is collected from the stallion, processed and frozen for future use. In order for it to be of satisfactory quality, the stallion has to be fertile and a known good “freezer” and it also requires delicate and meticulous handling. After thawing, the frozen semen usually only survives for 6-12 hours. Therefore, to optimise the fertility of the frozen semen, the mare’s reproductive tract needs to be examined by ultrasound many times (usually at 6-8h intervals) during oestrous to determine the best time for insemination. This is fun and interesting but still hard work. The pregnancy rates for frozen semen range from 0 - 70%, depending on its quality and the fertility of the mare. We do not usually recommend using frozen semen in problem mares or those over 14yo. However if your mare has a foal at foot then she is likely to be more fertile than a barren or old maiden mare.

**Pregnancy scans:** We strongly recommend that all mares are examined for their first pregnancy test at 14 -15 days after ovulation to help rule out and manage twins and, also, to implement any treatments for infertility.

**Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.**

Lee Morris

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