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THERIOGENOLOGY SERVICES

PLANNING YOUR BREEDING – WHAT TO EXPECT

The entire team at Veterinary Specialties is committed to doing the very best job we can for you to help you achieve your goals. We understand that the breeding you have planned may be the culmination of many years research and coordination. We ask you to trust us in our recommendations for your breeding. Females must be 18 months of age or older to qualify for our ovulation timing services.

Get the details organized

Please, if you have not already done so, provide us with a copy of your pet's registration papers. We also need to have signalment of the bitch or dog and the contact information for the "other half of the breeding," as the case may be. If you are the bitch owner, then we need the dog's info and the contact information for his owner and the collecting veterinarian. If you are the dog owner, then we need the bitch's signalment and the bitch owner's and receiving vet's contact information. AND we need to know how the breeding will be conducted (vaginal, TCI or surgical insemination) and how many shipments are to be sent. And when we are receiving shipments, we need to get the tracking number for the FedEx or UPS delivery as soon as it becomes available. Be aware that frozen semen shipments take AT LEAST 2 days because a full day is required to charge the shipping container prior to shipping.

Make contingency plans

We like to say, "If you have a Plan B, then you probably won't need it." Despite prospective planning and preparation, unexpected events can undermine a breeding. The stud dog must be available (not at a show or event, etc.) in good health and be reproductively sound. The selected sire can succumb to sudden illness or simply fail to give a satisfactory collection on the schedule day for shipment. There may be a weather-related event or transport "snafu" that delays arrival of the shipment, or the sperm cells may just be DOA (dead on arrival). So, think about contingency plans, have a second-choice option, and be ready to implement Plan B "at a moment's notice" should problems arise with Plan A. Plan B could be simply to abort the breeding for this season, use another sire, or use frozen semen that is stored locally.

Fees for breeding management

A theriogenology consultation/breeding management/exam fee is assessed at the beginning of each breeding to be managed. A Brucellosis test is performed on bitches at the beginning of each

season in which they are to be bred. For dogs, a Brucellosis test is performed preferably within a month of the breeding. Since no two females and no two seasons are exactly the same, the exact number of ovulation timing tests needed (vaginal cytologies, progesterones, LH's, etc.) cannot be known prospectively. Be assured that the number of tests performed will be the number necessary to do our job – no more and no less.

The current fee structure for basic services is as follows:

Theriogenology breeding management fee (assessed each time the bitch is bred)	\$125
Progesterone Assay (per test)	84
LH Assay (per test)	73
Vaginal Cytology (per test)	40
Vaginoscopy	37
Brucellosis	63
Transvaginal AI	95
Semen Collection (each)	60
Semen Evaluation – Brief (each)	40
Semen Evaluation – Complete (each)	65
Routine pregnancy ultrasound examination	98
Term radiography	95
Whelping Management Consultation	65

Estimates for other services are gladly given upon request - semen cryopreservation and storage, TCI (transcervical insemination) procedures and surgical inseminations, etc.

There is an art to the science of ovulation timing

Ovulation timing in the bitch is a whole lot more complicated than just a progesterone of 5 ng/ml. If it were that simple, then we would not need to use all the other diagnostic tests we have to determine optimal breeding dates. Just know that each test we recommend enables our team to do the very best job we can to help you achieve your goals.

Breeding dogs in an elective procedure

Please understand that the breeding of dogs is an elective procedure. The optimal outcome is best achieved when you don't cut corners. Please be prepared for the time and financial commitment required and make contingencies for the unexpected – an emergency Caesarian section, for example. AND REMEMBER . . . Mother Nature has the final say in the matter. Sometimes the breeding does not result in a litter even when all parties involved (the bitch, the dog, the owners and the veterinarians) do their jobs well.

Lacey Rosenberg, Associate DVM, DACT