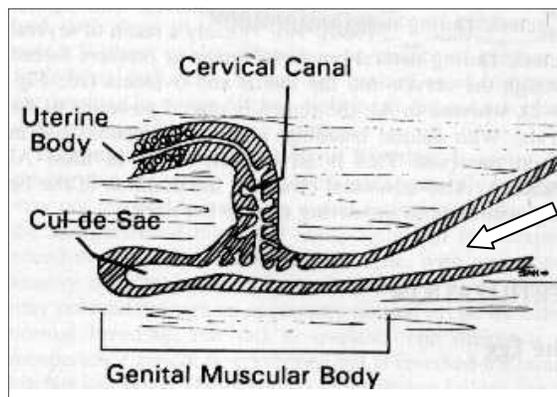


Canine Reproduction 101

Performing Artificial Insemination Using Fresh Chilled Semen

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.

1. The semen should be inseminated within 15 minutes after removal from the chilled package. Gently invert the syringe or capped plastic tube in order to thoroughly mix the semen; as settlement readily occurs during transit.
2. If you have a microscope, it is best to evaluate the semen for motility.
 - a. Place a drop of semen on a microscope slide
 - b. Place a cover slip over the drop of semen
 - c. Examine for progressive motility.
3. Draw 3ml of air into the syringe
 - a. This is to clear the pipette at the end of the insemination.
4. Draw all of the semen into the syringe and attach the pipette or catheter.
5. Have the bitch on a table is much easier to manage than on the floor; larger breeds do prefer standing on the floor.
6. Make sure someone is available to safely restrain her as necessary.
7. Wearing rubber gloves; spread the labia and prepare to pass the tip of the insemination pipette dorsally into the vaginal opening ventral to the rectum.
8. The pipette should be in an almost vertical direction at this stage. (see drawing) You will need to redirect the pipette in a horizontal position; then gently advance the pipette towards the cervix. Vaginal folds can subject the pipette or catheter to temporary resistance, although, this can be avoided by spinning and/or rolling the pipette as the resistance occurs.



9. The tip of the pipette usually stops when it arrives at the dorsal fold in the anterior vagina; it is recommended, to advance the pipette past the dorsal fold.
10. This is accomplished by applying a slight amount of pressure in a ventral direction while pushing the pipette fourth, the pipette should be advanced as far as possible,
 - a. In giant bitches, advance the pipette 25cm.
 - b. In large bitches, advance the pipette 22-24 cm.
 - c. In small to medium bitches, advance the pipette 15-18cm.
 - d. In toy breeds, advance the pipette 5-10 cm
11. Always check the position of the pipette by simply palpating the abdomen. In most bitches, you can feel the cervix, which should be just cranial to the tip of the insemination pipette.
12. Elevate the hindquarters of the bitch if you are using a pipette or if you are using a catheter, simply keep the end elevated above the point of the hip.
13. Once the hindquarters are elevated;
 - a. Turn the syringe vertically with the plunger in the uppermost position
 - b. Inject the extended semen
 - c. Make sure that the air left in the syringe clears the pipette or catheter.
14. If using a pipette, withdraw the pipette, keeping the bitch's hindquarters elevated.
15. If using a catheter, keep the end elevated above the point of the hip.
16. Gently stimulate the vaginal wall with finger for 5 minutes, this is called feathering, which stimulates the closure of the cervical folds.
17. Keep the hindquarters elevated for an additional 5 to 10 minutes after stimulation is completed.

Key Words:

Axis: Line Around Which Object Rotates

Cranial: Top or to the topside

Dorsal: Back, Toward Spine or to the Backside

Ventral: Lower Body or Close to the Abdomen

Motility: Progressive Movement or Straight Forward Movement