

Important Pointers for Insemination with TS

- Do not open the Equitainer until the veterinarian is present and ready to inseminate.
- For best results, try to inseminate within 24 hours of collection.
- **DO NOT WARM THE SEMEN PRIOR TO INSEMINATION.** Simply use a syringe that is slightly warmer than the semen. The mare is the best "warmer" and offers the ideal conditions for the semen.
- Research has shown that certain syringes can be toxic to stallion sperm. It is recommended that AirTite brand syringes without rubber stoppers be used for insemination. If you cannot obtain an AirTite syringe and an alternate brand is used, leave the semen in the syringe for the shortest time possible.
- Since many sterile gloves and pipettes contain toxic substances, it is important to minimize the length of time the semen is exposed to them.
- Remember that cooled semen is more fragile than fresh semen and any harmful substances or procedures will have a greater effect on cooled semen

Procedure for Insemination

Insemination should only be performed by your veterinarian or a certified reproductive specialist.

Step 1: Make a positive identification of the mare by comparing her in every detail with her breeding identification passport.

Step 2: Prepare the mare. Wrap her tail well. A plastic rectal sleeve slipped over her tail and taped in place ensures cleanliness. Scrub the surrounding 10 inches of the mare's genital area with a good cleaning solution and warm water. If a Betadine solution is used, the area must be rinsed thoroughly as it leaves a spermicidal residue.

Step 3: Set up all items needed for insemination (sterile insemination pipet, AirTite syringe, gloves, sleeves, etc.). Any item that comes in direct contact with the semen should be slightly warmer than the semen.

Step 4: Remove the tube or packet of semen from the Equitainer. Invert the tube or packet gently a few times to mix sperm cells that have settled to the bottom.

Step 5: Draw the insemination volume into the slightly warmer AirTite syringe. (It is recommended that a small volume be left in the container if you wish to check the motility of the sample.)

Step 6: Inseminate immediately.

Step 7: Complete the required paperwork and return it and the Equitainer to the stud farm promptly.

Note: Some stud farms will be shipping entire ejaculates and some will be splitting ejaculates. It is important the farm notifies you about their procedures. The type of antibiotic used in the extender should also be noted.

Follow Up

Five days after the last day your mare is bred, you should begin the teasing regimen again. Mares that have an infection will sometimes recycle as early as 6 days after the end of their last heat. This information is essential since early recycling could mean that she has an undetected infection or other disorder.

Ultrasound diagnosis may be conducted as early as 15 days after ovulation. If no ultrasound machine is available, your veterinarian will palpate the mare to determine pregnancy, usually between 18 to 21 days after she was last bred. Additional ultrasound or palpation sessions should be scheduled to check for early fetal loss and twinning.

If your mare comes back into heat, notify your veterinarian immediately. The veterinarian must determine whether or not it is a false heat. 30% of all mares show heat when they are actually in foal.

Many breeding contracts stipulate that you must have your mare examined for pregnancy and report the results to the stud farm by certain dates after the last day bred. Your live foal guarantee may become null and void if you do not abide by these deadlines.

It is important that all required paperwork is signed, notarized and returned to the stud farm per your agreement.