

Maintaining Your Bloodline

Veterinary Specialty and
Emergency Care

317.534.6000

Ovulation Timing

It's not ALL about progesterone

Ovulation in the bitch results from a cascade of events.

Early signs include swelling of the vulva and a blood-tinged discharge. These are due to increasing levels of estrogen as the bitch enters estrus (heat cycle). Estrogen is also responsible for changes within the vaginal canal.

Change in the character of the

Increasing estrogen stimulates the release of luteinizing hormone (LH) which is responsible for triggering ovulation. The LH surge is short (12-24 hours) and requires daily sampling. Fortunately for us, progesterone begins to increase near the time of the LH surge. Following the

Progesterone estimates the time of ovulation. The luteinizing hormone surge identifies ovulation, the peak fertile period and the whelping date.

cells viewed with a microscope provide additional information about the progression of the cycle.

progesterone trend will help estimate the time of ovulation, however, LH will identify it.

Breeding Soundness Evaluation

It's not just about semen quality

Every dog in your breeding program should be a quality representative of the breed. Male or female, these animals become the foundation of

future generations. Do your homework to ensure healthy offspring.

Prior to breeding, each parent should have a

Frozen Semen

• • •

Many people are familiar with semen collection and freezing. The vast majority of samples are destined for domestic use. In other words, the breeder/owner will elect to breed their own dams with preserved semen or ship samples to their colleagues within the United States. However, what happens when a call comes from abroad?

Semen to be exported must meet criteria designated by the importing country. Some of these criteria require clearances and testing months before the sample is even collected.

One benefit of frozen semen is to preserve genetic potential beyond the life of the donor. Planning ahead for the potential exportation of semen is essential.

thorough physical evaluation, pass breed registry health clearances and be clear of any infectious disease (*Brucella canis*). Breeding animals should be fed a quality diet, receive immunizations regularly, and be free of internal and external parasites.

The bitch should not be overweight or underweight and have had regular estrous cycles. An assessment of reproductive organs may include; vaginoscopy, ultrasound of ovaries and uterus, uterine culture and biopsy.

The male should have a thorough reproductive evaluation including digital assessment of the prostate and scrotal contents. When possible, a semen evaluation should be performed prior to anticipated breeding dates. If the male is selected for a long-distance romance, an extended semen sample may be chilled and re-evaluated at 24 and 48 hours. This will ensure that viable semen will arrive at its destination.

Early preparation is key to optimizing the opportunity for a healthy litter.

Please phone to schedule your pre-breeding consultation

Jeanette L. Raikos, DVM, MS, DACT
Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Care
4625 E. Stop 11 Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46237
317.534.6000