

Breeding Department SOP

Semen Collection

Collecting the Stud Dog:

Purpose: To outline for employees the policy for collecting a stud dog. Semen is collected from dogs for breeding soundness exams, as well as for artificial insemination. Semen collected for insemination can be used fresh or can be chilled and shipped to another location. Canine semen can also be frozen, allowing long term storage. Another indication for collecting semen is to obtain prostatic fluid for culture or cytology in cases of suspected prostatic disease. This SOP is for Breeding Technicians and the Breeding Manager. This document is maintained by the Breeding Manager and the Director of Operations.

Semen Collection

1. Any stud dog getting collected needs his microchip scanned to confirm the right dog.
2. Collecting a stud dog requires two staff members
 - a. The one doing the collection being a trained Breeding Staff
3. Semen can be collected from most males with or without the need for a teaser female, particularly if the male has had semen collected previously.
 - a. Use of a female will almost certainly expedite the procedure and allow more sperm to be harvested.
 - b. If using a teaser female, she should be in estrus for best collection results.
 - c. If a female is used, she should be controlled with her rear quarters facing the male.
 - d. An alternative means of stimulating the male is to present him with a vaginal swab from an estrous female
 - i. For convenience, several such swabs can be prepared from an estrous female and stored frozen until needed.
4. Canine semen is collected using digital pressure and massage.
 - a. Most failures arise because the male is shy or otherwise intimidated.
5. It helps to perform the collection on a non-slip surface such as cement/rubber mat, and/or carpet.
6. Semen is collected with or without the male mounting.
7. A collection cone with an attached tube is commonly used or the funnel system.
 - a. The Funnel System is preferred for this facility: Color-coded funnels to divide the different ejaculate fractions:
 - i. Dividing the fractions is useful in preventing unwanted bacteria and contaminations by prostatic fluid

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- ii. Allows examination of stud dog penis while being collected
 - iii. Spill-proof funnel design prevents accidents during the collection process
 - iv. Non-spermicidal materials are easy to clean, sterilize and reuse
 - v. Samples are immediately ready for analysis, centrifugation, or further processing.
8. The basic process is conducted in the following series of steps:
- a. Wear non latex gloves (latex is considered spermicidal) and lube the hand that will be used to collect with non-spermicidal lube.
 - b. Grasp the sheath and gently push it back to expose the tip of the penis.
 - c. Slide your hand over the protruding penis, pushing the sheath back over the bulbis glandis.
 - d. Lock your fingers in a ring around the penis, essentially holding the bulbis glandis inside your fist.
 - e. Apply gentle pressure along with his natural thrusting.
 - i. Wait for him to start thrusting; if he doesn't seek Manager's guidance
 - f. Watch for 1st fraction to flow into collection funnel
 - i. First fraction is usually clear and around 1 ml
 - g. As soon as you see a milk substance, switch funnels
 - i. Sperm rich fraction will be milk white and around 1 to 3 mls
 - ii. Typically there is a different feel to the ejaculation pulses than with first fraction
 - iii. Most dogs stop thrusting as they begin to ejaculate the sperm rich fraction
 - h. Continue to apply pressure until you observe a crystal clear fluid (prostatic fluid) begin to flow into the funnel
 - i. Switch funnels.
 - ii. Collect around 2 to 5 mls of prostatic fluid in case it needs testing
 - iii. Should be clear, if not, alert the breeding manager of color
 - iv. Dogs can give 60+ mls of prostatic fraction
 - i. After collection, observe penis and bulbis and take note of the following:
 - i. Appearance of herpes lesions
 - ii. General appearance of organs and note any abnormalities (cysts, coloring, burst blood vessels, etc)
 - j. Gently release the penis
 - k. Lube the penis with more non spermicidal lube to ensure the penis goes back into sheath without pain
 - l. Allow dog to lick penis as it helps the swelling go down
 - m. If dog starts crying in pain, jerking, or seems distressed, have one person restrain the dog, as the trained staff member checks the penis, prepuce, and other areas
 - i. If the prepuce has turned in on itself, gently roll the skin back and allow the penis to recede.

- ii. If the bulbis is still swollen, apply more non spermicidal lube and instruct helper to encourage the dog to take a couple of steps forward
 - iii. If needed, contact the vet department for assistance.
- n. Place dog back in original kennel once stud is ready.