A BREEDER'S QUICK GUIDE

BEFORE YOU BREED

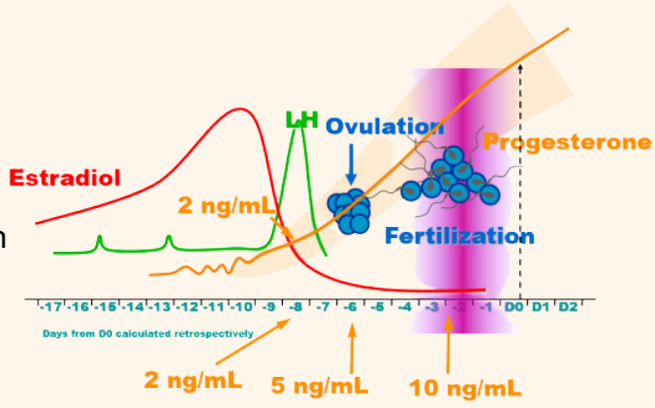
Physical Exam
Breed-Specific OFA Health Clearances
CBC/Blood Chemistry/4DX/Urinalysis
Vaccinations (at least 2 weeks prior to breeding)
Preventatives (HeartGard, Bravecto, FrontlinePlus)
Brucellosis Testing
Semen Evaluation

AT FIRST SIGN OF HEAT

Guarded Vaginal Culture (Aerobic bacteria, Mycoplasma, Ureaplasma)
+/- Broad-spectrum antibiotics (Clavamox & Baytril)
First Progesterone Test, day 5-7
Notify Stud Dog Owner +/- Backup
Acquire Frozen Semen (if not already done)

WHEN TO BREED?

In a textbook cycle, the **LH surge occurs around 2 ng/mL** and **ovulation occurs roughly 2 days later between 4-10 ng/mL**. Ovulation is confirmed by a spike in the progesterone in the following 24 hours. Eggs require an additional 2 days of maturation.



Fresh semen can last up to 5-7 days in the bitch's reproductive tract. After insemination, a sperm requires an additional 12-24 hours to capacitate before fertilization is possible. *Shipped chilled semen and frozen semen are already capacitated.* **Frozen semen only lasts ~12 hours** in the bitch's reproductive tract.

HOW WILL YOU BREED?

NATURAL ("LIVE COVER")

OR

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION ("AI")

a. **Vaginal AI**
   i. Performed veterinarian or breeder
   ii. Semen deposited via pipette into the vaginal canal
   iii. Generally reserved for fresh semen ("side-by-side")

b. **Transcervical insemination (TCI)**
   i. Performed by veterinarian using a rigid endoscope with bitch standing on a table
   ii. Semen deposited via catheter through cervix into uterus
   iii. Fresh semen, shipped chilled semen, excellent quality frozen semen

c. **Surgical AI**
   i. Performed by veterinarian via small abdominal incision under general anesthesia
   ii. Semen deposited via catheter into both uterine horns and gently flushed towards ovaries
   iii. 10-14 day recovery with restricted activity & no bathing
   iv. Shipped chilled semen, frozen semen

TIMELINE

Pregnancy Confirmation via ultrasound, 25-30 days after ovulation
Deworm for 3-5 days with Panacur (if not on preventatives), 45 days after ovulation
Radiographic Puppy Count (if planning to whelp naturally) 60 days after ovulation
Elective Cesarean-Section, afternoon/evening prior to due date or morning of due date
Due Date, 63 +/-1 day after ovulation, stage I labor initiated by progesterone <2 ng/mL

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