



Andrew Bell

7 SEMEN FREEZING

Top Tips For Breeders

**WHETHER YOU
HAVE BEEN
CONSIDERING IT
FOR SOME TIME
OR JUST WANT TO
IMPROVE YOUR
BREEDING
PROGRAMME.**



EXPORTS:

The team must be notified of any potential exports prior to the day of semen collection to ensure that any relevant health requirements to the country of export are fulfilled.

HELPING HAND:

Our NAF fertility supplement can help to improve libido, semen concentration and semen quality; with very good results observed in dogs with historical suboptimal fertility.

JUST DO IT:

Just do it! Many clients often express regret for not bringing their dogs sooner. Freezing your dog's semen is a valuable insurance for generations.

FREEZING AGE:

Most dogs' optimum semen production and quality tends to be between 2 and 5 years of age, therefore this is the ideal time for semen freezing. Although collection for freezing have successfully taken place from dogs older than 5 years; this is risky. Do not leave it too late!

CONSIDER PETS:

Consider using entire males in pet homes alongside your own show or working dogs. Dogs placed in pet homes still have the potential to contribute valuable genetic lines to the breeding program.

THE RESULTS:

Unfortunately, it is impossible to know how many breeding doses a dog will provide from one freezing appointment until a post-thaw analysis is carried out. This is typically completed 24 to 48 hours after freezing.

EXPRESS HIMSELF:

Avoid disciplining your dog for expressing sexual behaviours at home if you intend on semen collection. Negative associations can influence a dog's willingness to provide a semen sample.



office@elitekennelfertility.com

www.elitekennelfertility.com

01948 411581



7 CHILLING SEMEN

Top Tips For Breeders

Anna Hamblin RVN

CHILLED SEMEN CAN TAKE THE STRESS OUT OF TRAVELLING A STUD DOG AROUND THE COUNTRY. PUT IN TO PRACTICE THIS CAN BE A TIME SAVER FOR BREEDERS



GOOD INSTRUCTIONS:

Send your samples with good instructions. Clearly label everything and send all the information with the semen and back it up with an email if possible.

QUALITY CONTROL:

Its always good to double check your work. Keep a small sample of the chilled semen in your fridge at the lab to perform daily checks during its transit.

RECORDS:

Always record semen volume, motility, concentration and dilution rate before chilling. This information is important for the vet who performs the insemination.

PREPERATION:

Preparation is key. Make sure the area your collect the semen and process the semen are set up and ready before you collect the dog. have everything cleaned, disinfected and necessary items sterilised to avoid contamination. Ensure all equipment is at the right temperature to avoid damaging the sample.

EXTENDERS:

Use a quality extender that has been tried and tested. Avoid using an extender for its claimed extended period longevity, use one for quality semen outcomes as chilled semen should be used asap anyway!

CONTROL THE CHILL:

Keep semen temperature changes controlled and steady. sudden changes can shock the semen and potentially kill it.

SEAL IT TIGHT:

Keep your samples air tight, use syringe caps and label your samples well. more information the better.



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Diana Baker MRCVS

PROGESTERONE TESTING & ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Top Tips For Breeders

**DON'T LEAVE YOUR LITTER TO
CHANCE; GET PROGESTERONE
LEVELS TESTED TO ENSURE YOU
CAN PREDICT OVULATION AND
WHELPING ACCURATELY**

BITCHES BREAK ALL THE RULES:

The interval between seasons can vary from 4.5 to 12 months and the start of proestrus to ovulation can vary from 3 - 27 days. Knowing when ovulation occurs is the critical benchmark for the timing of breeding, essential if using frozen semen, and for calculating the expected date of whelping. By measuring the rise of progesterone in a blood sample the timing of ovulation can be predicted rather than being left to chance.

WHEN TO START:

It is advisable to begin progesterone testing on the seventh day after the start of a bitch's season. If in any doubt, start early.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

Progesterone measurement is also useful for monitoring pregnancy, particularly in older bitches or those with a history of previous pregnancy loss. In pregnant bitches when ovulation date is unknown, collecting blood to measure the fall in progesterone (reverse progesterone) to predict whelping date, especially prior to C Section is essential to avoid the premature delivery of pups.

THE BEAUTY OF AI:

Artificial insemination with fresh semen has several benefits. It allows assessment of semen on the day of breeding which can be particularly useful when using older or unproven stud dogs. Use of AI protects a stud from contracting any sexually transmitted infections from a bitch. It is often less stressful than a natural mating for the dog, bitch and often the owners too, especially with certain breeds and inexperienced dogs. Shipping of chilled semen for AI can allow use of a stud without the need to travel as far within the UK.

OPEN THE DOOR TO TCI AND SO MUCH MORE:

Trans-cervical insemination (TCI) using an endoscope has all the benefits of fresh insemination but also enables the use of frozen semen. This allows the use of stud dogs worldwide and the use of semen frozen and stored in the past. TCI also improves the chance of a pregnancy when using poor quality (low motility, low density) fresh semen. Using the endoscope allows us to visualise the bitch's vaginal canal and cervix. Abnormalities are rare, but we do see them occasionally.





ELITE KENNEL
— FERTILITY —
Veterinary Practice



5 HAND REARING *Top Tips For Breeders*

**DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP
OVER LOSING PUPPIES
AND TAKE HUGE PRIDE IN
ANY SUCCESSES.**

David Hughes MRCVS

**AVAILABLE
ONLINE IN THE
EKF SHOP**



Bloomfield's Manual of Puppy Hand Rearing -
Every breeder's must have guide to caring for
your litter.

A LITTLE CAN BE A LOT:

When the bitch is mothering well and puppies are thriving, minimal intervention is best.

GET WARM FIRST:

Bottle feeding weak and cold puppies who are unable to suckle will cause the death of the puppy.

GET STIMULATED:

Puppies die if they are not stimulated to toilet.

TAKE PRIDE IN SUCCESS:

Not all puppies will make it despite our best efforts. Without intervention, most of these puppies we choose to hand rear will almost certainly die. Don't beat yourself up over losing puppies and take huge pride in any successes.

ASSESS THE SITUATION:

Brief assessment of puppies is essential prior to hand rearing. Keeping puppies with severe abnormalities or defects alive may pose a greater risk to their health, welfare, and quality of life in the long run.



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Hannah Gill BSc Hons - Frozen Semen,
Storage and Logistics Coordinator

5 EXPORTING SEMEN

Top Tips For Breeders



NOTIFY

Notify Elite Kennel Fertility prior to your dog's collection if you intend on exporting the semen. (Some countries have health requirements that must be met prior to collection).

PREPARE

Consider using our Stud Dog Supplement to prepare your stud dog for the semen collections for export. We recommend having your dog on the supplement for 8-9 weeks, however have seen benefits as early as 3 weeks after starting the supplement.

PLAN

Plan to export to a specific country. Unfortunately, countries generally have different requirements, therefore it is generally best to freeze for export with a specific country in mind rather to try to cover several options.

HOW MANY DOSES?

Consider how much semen you would like to export. Different clients send varying quantities – from one dose, two multiple doses, to the whole collection. If you are wishing to send multiple doses, your dog may need to attend for multiple collections.

DONT WAIT

Do not leave it to the last minute! Depending on health requirements of the recipient country, exports can take anything from a week to 2 months from collection to export, and are in transit for 1-3 weeks.



logistics@elitekennelfertility.com

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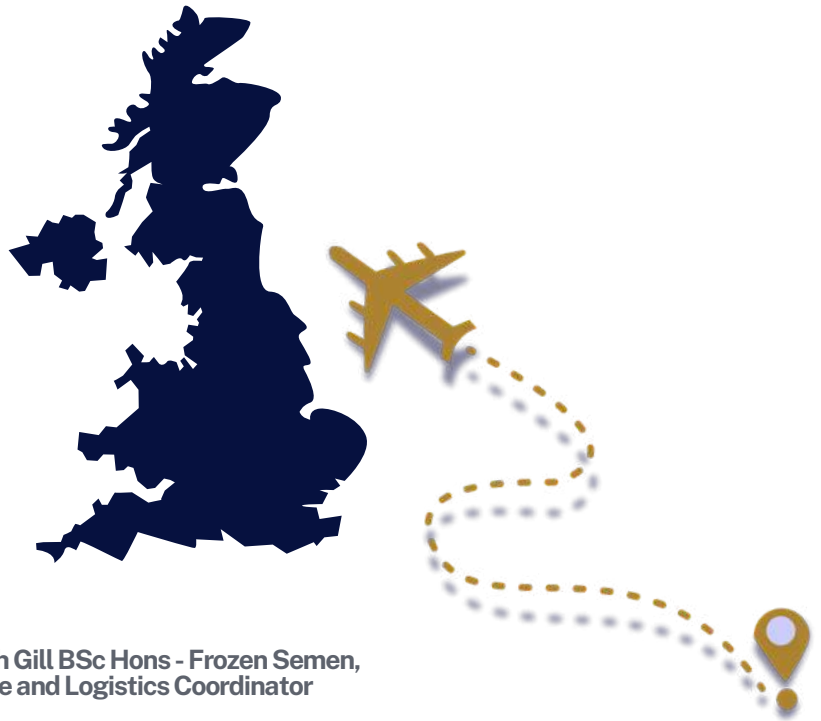
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5 IMPORTING SEMEN

Top Tips For Breeders



PLAN AHEAD

If the dog abroad is yet to be collected, notify Elite Kennel Fertility of your intention to import prior to the collection to enable us to contact the clinic abroad and ensure that health requirements (e.g. valid rabies vaccination at the time of collection) will be met.

DONT LEAVE IT TOO LATE!

Imports are generally relatively time consuming in terms of collating the required documentation. Aim to have the semen in the UK well in advance of when you plan to use it. Bear in mind that your bitch may throw you a curveball and come into season early.

WAIT! LET EKF HANDLE IT

Do NOT allow the clinic abroad to ship the semen themselves! It is vital that Elite Kennel Fertility book the shipment on with our own courier to ensure that preclearance is approved, all required documentation is raised before the shipment leaves and that the shipment is presented for inspection at the correct UK Border Control Point.

FIND A FRIEND

Consider arranging for multiple dogs to be collected abroad and a group import shipment to be arranged to split carriage costs.

HOW MANY DOSES

Consider how much semen you would like to import. Generally, we recommend importing two breeding doses in the event of the first insemination being unsuccessful.

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