

Breeding your mare by AI - frequently asked questions

Why use AI instead of natural service?

There are several advantages to using AI compared to natural service:

1. the mare does not need to be transported to the stallion
2. semen can be shipped all over the country and even overseas
3. it is safer for both the mare and the stallion
4. the conception rate is often higher than with natural service

What is the success rate when using AI?

The average conception rate per cycle when using fresh/shipped semen of excellent quality is 60-90%. This means that it usually takes 1 or 2 cycles to get your mare in foal.

What is involved with shipping fresh semen?

Semen is collected from the stallion using an artificial vagina. After collection "semen extender" is added to the semen. The extender helps to prolong the life of the sperm. The extended semen is then placed into a specially designed chilly-bin for shipment. Sperm will remain viable in the transport container for up to 48 hours, but the sooner the semen is used the better. Semen is usually transported to local airports or by courier.

What is involved in managing mares AI'd with fresh semen?

There are different approaches depending on your facilities and the level of experience of your veterinarian:

The best way to breed your mare is to have your vet scan your mare when she is in season. This allows you to time the insemination to better coincide with her ovulation. Certain drugs can be used to make sure that she ovulates so that you only need to AI her once.

If you are unable to have your mare scanned then it is best to AI the mare every 2nd day until she goes out of season. The downside of this approach is that it uses more semen and can therefore get expensive (collection and transport costs).

Further questions?

Please call Dr. Dave Hanlon at the clinic on 07 888 8193