



exciting news . . .

Fiona went to Austria



In July this year Fiona was invited to speak at the International Symposium on Canine and Feline Reproduction in Vienna. This conference is held once every four years and to be invited to talk at such a prestigious event is truly an honour. Fiona presented the research work she conducted

while working at Cornell University, New York on the underlying causes of stillbirths in whelping bitches. Her talk was extremely well received and the findings from her work are the first of their kind to be presented to the veterinary community. Her work will be published in both a peer reviewed journal and Veterinary Text book next year which is very exciting. We are extremely lucky to have someone with such a high international reputation running GlenBred.



Reproduction Seminar Days for training Veterinary Nurses at GlenBred

Two groups of veterinary nursing students recently came to GlenBred for a half day seminar on canine breeding as part of their course work. The first group of 13 nursing students came from Wintec Hamilton and are studying for their Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. Our own Lynne Gilles is a member of this class and we know she will do well in her reproduction examination!! The second group of nursing students came from Bay of Plenty Polytechic, Tauranga and are studying for their Vet Nursing certificate. Girls from both groups enjoyed learning about the canine oestrous cycle and seeing demonstrations of semen collection, semen assessment, vaginal cytology and artificial insemination.



New Semen Freezing Laboratory at Big Paw!

Ant from Big Paw has expanded our premises and built a new semen freezing laboratory. This is very exciting for us at GlenBred as it will give us greater flexibility with times for semen collections for freezing. However, our semen storage tanks will continue to be stored at the MAF approved, security monitored, main semen laboratory site located at the Equine Hospital and under the supervision of our laboratory manager, Victoria Weston.



A new Scope!!!

GlenBred has just purchased a new TCI scope! It is longer and thinner than the original model developed here in New Zealand and used internationally by our wonderful Dr Marion Wilson. This new model will allow us, in many cases, to pass the scope through the cervix and into the uterus. This will not only facilitate TCI in large breed bitches and bitches with cervixes which in the past have been difficult to catheterize, but also allows us to visualise and take samples from inside the uterus in certain infertility cases. Previously this type of infertility investigation/diagnostics was only able to be carried out surgically under general anaesthetic which is both invasive and carries greater risk to the bitches' welfare. The old scopes still have a very important role at GlenBred. There are many breeds and situations where they will be advantageous over the new scope. It is very nice for us to have so much choice now and provide an even better AI service.



GlenBred goes to Australia

Dr Fiona Hollinshead has been back to Sydney twice this year as a Specialist Reproduction Consultant at The University of Sydney Veterinary Teaching Hospital working with the NSW Police Dog Breeding Unit. As part of a mutual collaboration with New Zealand Police Dogs, Fiona has returned to The University of Sydney to collect and freeze semen (from dogs like Hass, see picture) from their highly trained and genetically valuable police dogs, investigating infertility cases, setting up a semen storage facility and assisting with the NSW Police's growing breeding program. On her last visit Fiona presented a seminar to the Veterinary interns, final year veterinary

Picture - courtesy of the NSW Police Dog Unit



Hass - courtesy of the NSW Police Dog Unit

students and NSW Police Dog breeding unit team, on aspects of canine reproduction and breeding which was very well received. She has also been asked to give a presentation at the Australasian Police Dog Service Breeding Conference being held next month in Sydney. Future projects will hopefully involve collaboration with The University of Sydney, the NSW Police Dogs and the NZ Police Dogs in research into canine artificial reproductive technologies that will hopefully enhance their breeding efficiency and genetic gain.

GlenBred and service dog involvement

GlenBred is very fortunate to be involved with both the NZ Police Dog Breeding Services and The Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind Guide Dog Breeding Services. Dr Fiona Hollinshead will be attending an upcoming meeting for the service dog breeding units being held at Massey University, Palmerston North, and later next month at the Guide Dogs annual breeding meeting. Fiona is looking forward to both meetings, as exciting new ideas resulting from group discussions involving veterinary specialists, breeding managers and geneticists can enhance these very important community breeding programs.



Alfie - courtesy of RNZFB Guide Dogs Services Annie - courtesy of NZ Police Dog Breeding Services Ruby - courtesy of RNZFB Guide Dogs Services

Earlier this year we inseminated Police Dog "Pam" via TCI with semen frozen at GlenBred using the new Uppsala technique. Pam gave birth to six pups. One of her pups, "Annie" is pictured above.

Another frozen semen success story was with Guide Dog "Ruby" who was inseminated via TCI with semen frozen over 16 years ago in the UK! Unfortunately the quality was not as good as we would have liked but Ruby still had three beautiful pups which we hope will make excellent golden retriever Guide dogs!

GlenBred goes to the working dog trials

GlenBred was very excited to be joint sponsors of the National Dog Trial at Taihape earlier this year. Dr Fiona Hollinshead attended the trials and presented a 'Free Semen Freezing' Prize to the winning Huntaway ("Rebel" Murphy) and Heading ("Hawk" Murphy) Dog.



We have more exciting news on the Trial Dog front as well. Dr Marion Wilson, the founder of "GlenBred" and inventor of the internationally famous "Transcervical Insemination Technique (TCI)", and her husband Jim, went to the World Sheep Dog Trials in the U.K. "Tweed" their sheep dog made it to the finals i.e he is one of the top 16 sheep dogs in the world!! Unfortunately he did not get a good run in the finals but this is still a fantastic achievement. Furthermore, their other dog, "Rose", also bought home some ribbons, after successfully competing in some national UK competitions. Congratulations to both Marion and Jim.



GLENBRED Small Animal Reproduction

december 08

M V S GlenBred
Advanced Small Animal Reproduction



current GlenBred team

Left to right: Victoria Weston, Kristie Blong, Fiona Hollinshead, Lynne Gillies, Nigel Kittow.

thank you from the GlenBred team

We would like to say thank you to all of our clients for your support and recommending our services to other breeders. The growing and enthusiastic team at GlenBred are very proud of the past year's results and hope for continuing success in the years to come.

Given the economic difficulties we are all currently facing, our fees will remain the same for 2009. This includes our semen freezing and semen storage services also. We hope this brings some relief to all of our dedicated GlenBred clients.

We hope you have a very safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2009!!

new addition to the GlenBred team . . .



Welcome to Lynne

We would like to welcome Lynne Gillies to the GlenBred team. Lynne has been working with us as a Veterinary Nurse since February 2008 and has a particular interest in small animal reproduction. Having obtained her Certificate in Veterinary

Nursing she is now completing her Diploma in Veterinary Nursing part-time. Lynne has also chosen to study an additional advanced reproduction module. Lynne is the very proud owner of two Leonberger bitches ("Savannah" and "Daisy") and is currently showing her one-year-old, "Daisy". Although new to the showing circuit she is realising the importance of breeding healthy, happy dogs. Lynne currently assists with all semen collections and inseminations at GlenBred and is very excited about her additional role of managing all of our GlenBred clients frozen and chilled semen importations and exportations, with the very experienced guidance of our Semen Laboratory Manager, Victoria Weston. Lynne is looking forward to meeting you personally at GlenBred or discussing semen importing and exporting enquiries over the phone and e-mail with you in the near future!



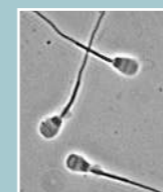
updated GlenBred website

We have updated our GlenBred website which you can view at www.matamatavets.co.nz and www.glenbred.co.nz and click on the link for GlenBred. We welcome and appreciate any feedback, photos and news that we can add to our "Success Stories" and "Latest at GlenBred" sections. For those of you who did not know, we have our pre-insemination, pre-semen collection, semen storage and semen transfer forms in PDF format listed on the website for your convenience. We are regularly updating and adding forms to this site to facilitate communication and information with us. Thank you to all those clients who have already contributed their stories and pictures for the website - it is very much appreciated. It is still a work in progress and we hope to get new information, particularly regarding importing and exporting canine semen, on it in the very near future.

photo board

We have a wonderful photo wall at our GlenBred premises at Big Paw! We love receiving pictures. The wall is constantly being updated and previous photos are put into our photo album. Please continue to send us those fantastic puppy pictures.

pregnancy rates after insemination with frozen-thawed semen:

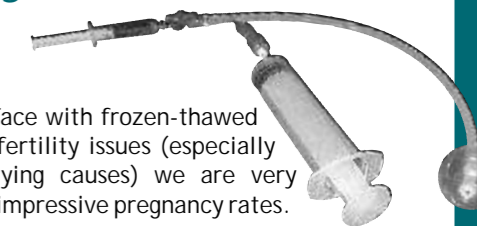


some food for thought?!

There are many different reports of pregnancy rates in bitches after insemination with frozen-thawed semen. Published canine pregnancy rates can vary from as low as 30% to as high as >90%! Generally, a pregnancy rate of 75% and greater is

internationally considered very good. The reason for this significant variation in pregnancy rates is that there are MANY factors that contribute to a successful or unsuccessful outcome after insemination with frozen semen. Some of these factors include breed, semen quality, sperm numbers, bitch fertility, fertility of the male's frozen semen, timing, site of deposition (i.e into the uterus vs vagina) and age of the bitch. Usually a combination of factors are acting together in any one case. We often forget how much we are asking of frozen semen and our expectations sometimes are not realistic! Not only are we using one-tenth of a normal ejaculate i.e only 100 million motile sperm, compared to 0.5-1 billion sperm which occurs in most normal fresh ejaculates, but we put the sperm through a cooling, freezing (to -196°C!) and thawing (to 37°C) process! It is amazing how well canine sperm tolerate these damaging processes and the success we do achieve after artificial insemination. See "Tips for maximising pregnancy rates after AI with frozen semen."

pregnancy rates at GlenBred



Despite the challenges we face with frozen-thawed semen and often female infertility issues (especially involving infectious underlying causes) we are very pleased to report some very impressive pregnancy rates.

So far we have had a 100% success rate after vaginal insemination with fresh semen using the new MAVIC catheters with the balloon on the end (see above picture). We have had a 100% success rate after TCI with chilled semen shipped to us from the South Island and Australia. We have also had this success rate after shipping chilled semen from GlenBred to the South Island for insemination of bitches located there. We are very excited about these results.

TCI with fresh ejaculated and extended semen has facilitated a significant improvement in pregnancy rates for our clients who own, in particular, breeds such as Bulldogs, Bullmastiffs, Great Danes, Newfoundlands and St Bernards, but also in situations where we have used older studs with lower sperm counts and/or poorer semen quality.

The success with frozen semen has very much depended on semen quality and breed and for this reason is quite variable. However, overall we have a successful pregnancy rate of 84% which we are very pleased to report.

Thank you to all of our clients who filled out our "Breeding Questionnaire". We very much appreciate hearing your feedback. This information helps us greatly to continue to improve our results and provide the best service possible.