



Theriogenology and Reproductive Medicine Service

Canine Frequently Asked Questions

For the Bitch's Owner

1. How old should my bitch be in order to safely breed?

18 months

2. What health tests are recommended for my breed?

Please visit the following link and find your breed for OFA recommended testing – note some testing cannot be done until the age of 2 years: ofa.org/browse-by-breed

3. What tests should I require the stud dog owner have done?

The stud should have the same testing recommended for your female. The owner should be willing to share those results. A *Brucella* test should also be done on both dogs.

4. What is a *Brucella* test?

Brucellosis is a disease caused by a group of bacteria from the genus *Brucella*. These bacteria can infect both humans and animals. It can cause abortions in female dogs and sterility in male dogs.

5. Why should I have my dog tested for brucella?

We require the test to be run every six months for our safety and your pet's safety. The disease can be picked up from other animals and is not just related to sexual intercourse with other dogs. It is possible for your dog to come in contact with the bacteria anywhere in the environment that wildlife is present.

6. How should I breed my bitch?

We offer traditional vaginal artificial insemination (AI) and transcervical artificial insemination (TCI). The quality of the semen and the bitch's breed both help to determine which AI procedure may be best.

7. What is TCI?

TCI is transcervical insemination. A camera attached to a scope is used to visualize the cervix. A small catheter is then fed through the opening of the cervix and the semen is deposited directly into the uterus. This is starting to replace surgical AI's because it does not typically require the bitch to be sedated or require an abdominal incision.

8. What tests help me know when my bitch has ovulated?

We recommend a series of progesterone tests, typically every other day. We like to see the bitch between 5-7 days after they have started to bleed and recommend contacting us to make the appointment when you first notice blood.

9. Why do I need so many progesterone tests done?

Having a series of progesterone tests determines the day closest to ovulation. This allows us to give you a due date with a +/- 1 day variation. This is important for breeds that typically require C-sections.

10. What if I don't have the progesterone tests done at the beginning of my bitch's heat cycle and she needs a C-section?

Then progesterone testing will be done at the end of the pregnancy to determine when the bitch may go into labor within 24 hours. These tests are done daily and can potentially take up to a week to determine the correct time for surgery.

11. How do I know when my bitch is ready to be bred?

We use progesterone tests to determine ovulation along with LH (luteinizing hormone) detection (typically recommended when using frozen semen).

12. Do you provide the semen if I want to breed my bitch ?

We do not provide semen for your bitch. You will need to find a reputable breeder, contact them and have everything arranged prior to breeding.

13. Should I use frozen, fresh or chilled semen?

Natural breedings typically see the highest success rates, closely followed by side by side AI (the male is present and semen is collected at the time of insemination), chilled semen breedings and then frozen semen.

14. What do you require for breeding my bitch?

We require proof of a current rabies vaccine. We need a copy of the rabies certificate on the first visit. Your primary veterinary should be able to print a copy for you if you do not have one.

15. How much will this cost?

Expect it to cost the price of at least one to two puppies from the expected litter.

16. My bitch was bred by an unknown male dog and we do not want her to have the litter. Is there anything we can do?

Yes. We have an injection that we give. It requires two injections done 24 hours apart and we get best results if done 14 days after the accidental breeding.

Theriogenology and Reproductive Medicine Service

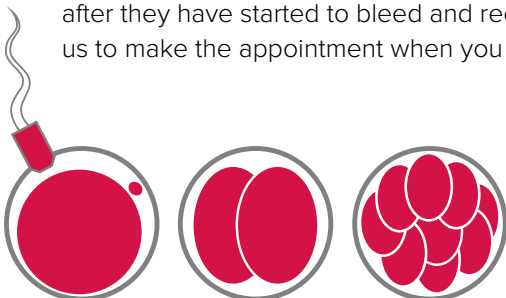
The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center

601 Vernon L. Tharp St., Columbus, Ohio 43210

Appointments: **614-292-3551**

osuvet.theriogenology@osu.edu

vet.osu.edu/vmc/companion





THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

Theriogenology and Reproductive Medicine Service

Canine Frequently Asked Questions

For the Stud Dog's Owner

1. How old should my stud dog be before using him to breed?

At least 1-year-old. Typically most male dogs are not sexually mature until 18- to 24-months-old. It is recommended that your 1-year-old be tested prior to breeding to make sure he is capable.

2. Should I have my stud dog's semen frozen?

If you would like to keep the genetics for later, then yes.

3. When should I have my stud dog's semen frozen?

We recommend between the ages of 2- to 5-years-old. This is typically their most fertile age. We only recommend freezing if they have already produced live litters with natural breedings or cooled, shipped semen.

4. Why should I let my stud dog produce a litter before freezing his semen?

Freezing semen is not a naturally occurring process and many things can happen during the freezing process. Just because a male dog can produce a litter with fresh semen does not necessarily mean his frozen semen will produce live litters.

5. How many doses of semen should I have frozen?

It depends on your end goal. Breeding with frozen semen is at least 50 percent successful. Expect that for every two doses of frozen semen you have, only one will take.

6. Do you store frozen semen?

No. We work with and recommend a company called Zoetis. For more information about Zoetis, please visit their website: zoetisus.com/reproduction/home.aspx

7. What tests should I have done on my stud dog?

We suggest OFA recommended, breed specific testing. To find these tests, please visit the following website:

ofa.org/browse-by-breed.

We also recommend *Brucella* testing every six months and more frequently for stud dogs doing live cover (natural breedings).

8. Can you collect and ship cooled semen?

Yes. If you are aware that your stud dog is going to be used, we recommend contacting us as soon as the bitch's owner gives you an approximate date. We can typically get you in within 24 hours, but we ask for at least 48 hours' notice if possible.

9. Should I only breed bitches with my stud dog that can be brought to me for live cover (natural breedings)?

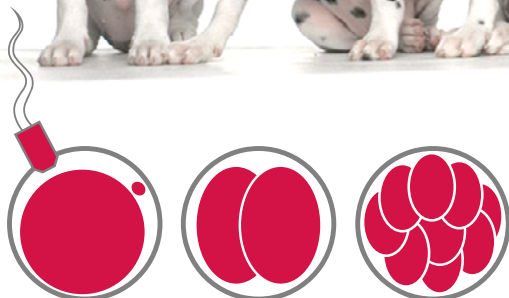
Natural breedings are typically the best, but do have their disadvantages such as injury to both dogs, the unwillingness of one or both dogs, and young males can have a hard time figuring out what to do if you are also using an inexperienced female.

10. What do you require for collecting my stud dog?

We require proof of a current rabies vaccine. We need a copy of the rabies certificate on the first visit. Your primary veterinary should be able to print a copy for you if you do not have one.

11. What is the cost of freezing semen?

Please email us at osuvet.theriogenology@osu.edu for price quotes.



Theriogenology and Reproductive Medicine Service
The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center
601 Vernon L. Tharp St., Columbus, Ohio 43210
Appointments: **614-292-3551**
osuvet.theriogenology@osu.edu
vet.osu.edu/vmc/companion