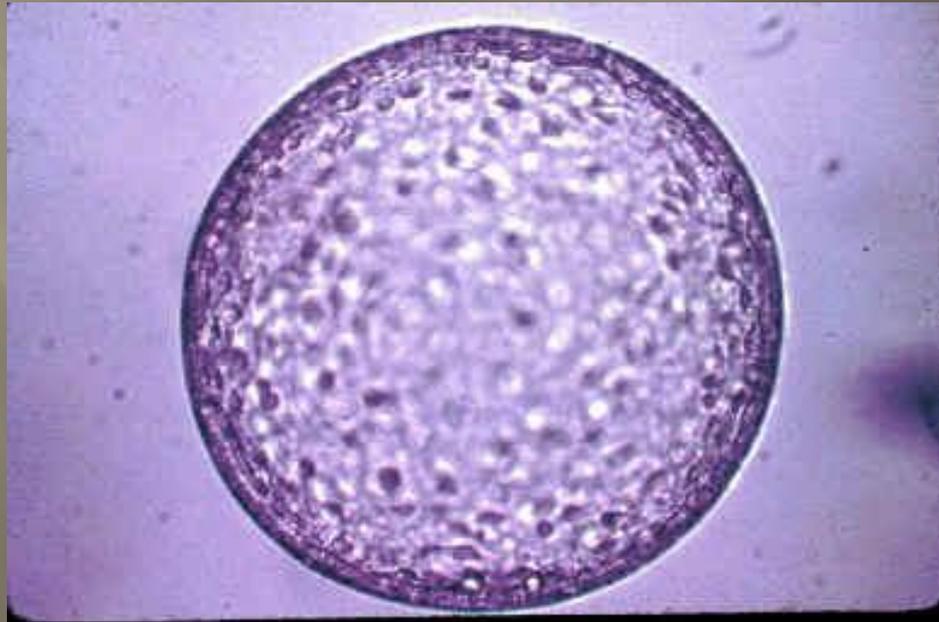


ATTAINING AND RETAINING SUCCESSFUL PREGNANCIES

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Pregnancy Rate - Fertile Mares

- ▣ 80% after 1st natural cover (Vet Fee €100)
 - ▣ 65% chilled semen (Vet Fees €200)
 - ▣ 40% frozen semen (Vet Fees €350)
- To establish pregnancy €700

Fertile Mares

- ▣ Adequate nutrition for at least 3 months prior to covering
- ▣ 4-18 years old
- ▣ Scan normal
 - Cysts
 - Uterine fluid
 - Confirmation
- ▣ If foal at foot; passed afterbirth within 2 hours of foaling
- ▣ No history of not going in foal

Subfertile Mares

- ▣ Old mares (over 18 years)
- ▣ Mares with excessive cysts/ uterine fluid
- ▣ 2 & 3 year old mares (nutrition)
- ▣ Mares with history of 'barren when foal at foot'
- ▣ Competing mares
 - Stress
 - Joints injected (not all, but most mares)

Subfertile Mares

- ▣ Joints injected
 - Do not cycle properly
 - Oocytes that do not produce embryos
 - Much higher incident of uterine infection
 - Affects mares for more than 12 months

Subfertile Mares

- ▣ Pregnancy rate
 - Affected much greater with frozen semen than natural cover or chilled semen
 - Best to ovulate within 12 hours of cover (oocyte)

Natural Cover (80%) cover before ovulation

- ▣ Ask for history of stallion
- ▣ May need as little as two scans (costs)
- ▣ Mare needs to ovulate with 48 hours of cover

Chilled Semen (65%) A.I. before ovulation

- ▣ Best results when a mare ovulates within 24 hours of A.I.
- ▣ Chilling affects semen from all stallions, some more than others
- ▣ Best results when mare is A.I.'d within 6 hours of collection
- ▣ Chilled semen from Europe that is in transit up to 36 hours is not much better than frozen semen
- ▣ Needs more veterinary input than natural cover

Frozen Semen (40%) A.I. after ovulation

- ▣ Requires a lot of vet input (scan 4 times plus per day)
- ▣ Best results when mare is A.I.'d within 4 hours of ovulation
- ▣ Great variations between stallions (some don't freeze well)
- ▣ Great variations between batches of semen frozen from the same stallion
 - Time of year (spring) that semen is collected
 - Has the stallion received medication while competing

Frozen Semen (40%) A.I. after ovulation

- ▣ Some batches of semen will result in over 70% pregnancy
- ▣ Some batches of semen will result in 10% pregnancy or less
 - Costs
 - Mare A.I.'d 3+ times is less likely to go in foal

Frozen Semen (40%) A.I. after ovulation

- ▣ Requirements for semen
 - Cert that stallion has not received joint medication
 - Date of collection of semen
 - Pregnancy rates from different batches
 - Only sold on pregnancy

Owners Contribution

- ▣ Nutrition over three months
- ▣ Scan mare whilst not in season
- ▣ Records from previous year (mares repeat same cycle year after year)
- ▣ Avoid using bad semen
 - Costs
 - Less likely to get mare in foal with semen from different stallion

Owners Contribution

- ▣ Avoid using frozen semen on subfertile mares
 - Chances of pregnancy much greater with natural cover or chilled semen
- ▣ Do not A.I. with frozen semen on foaling heat
- ▣ Exercise
- ▣ Access to a teaser

Embryo Transfer

- ▣ 7 day pregnancy is transferred from donor to recipient
- ▣ Why do we use embryo transfer?
 - When we don't want a donor to carry a pregnancy
 - Why? Not able to maintain pregnancy
 - Old or some disability (ruptured prepubic tendon)
 - Want more than one foal
 - Want to continue competing

Previous advice on mares still applies:

– only recover an embryo if the mare is pregnant!

Flush Mare

- ▣ Donor – A.I. or natural cover
 - Flush 6.5 – 8.5 days
 - Can be cycled and flushed every 21 days
 - If competing – does not affect the performance
 - Multiple flushing doesn't affect ability to carry own foal at a later date
 - Twin follicles can result in two embryos

Flush Mare

▣ Recipients

- Mare between 4 and 16 years and preferably had foal previous
- Mares with foal at foot (> 40 days foaled) don't give high pregnancy rates
- Nutrition
- Needs to ovulate 1 day before to 4 days after donor mare
- Size – small mare = small foal; big mare = big foal
- Expect 90% pregnancy rate

Flush Mare

- ▣ Freeze
 - Flush 6.5 – 7.5 days
 - 50% pregnancy
 - Costs

Flush Mare

▣ Costs

▣ Flush; Transfer; Pregnancy €1,400

▣ Natural Cover (if possible): 10 flush – 8 pregnancies

▣ Chilled Semen: 10 flush – 6 pregnancies

▣ Frozen Semen: 10 flush – less than 4 pregnancies

▣ Foal from E.T. value €5,000