

Commonly asked Questions to a Small Animal Theriogenology Technician

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SA Theriogenology Technician

Overview

- Health Screening
- Genetic Testing
- Accidental Breeding
- Semen Collection Postmortem

What health testing should be done before breeding?

Canine Health Information Center (CHIC)

A centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

Health Screening

Diseases

- Hip Dysplasia
- Elbow Dysplasia
- Eye Disease
- Cardiac Disease
- Respiratory Function
- Patellar Luxation
- Thyroid
- Other Phenotypic Evaluations
- DNA Based Disease Tests
- Disease Statistics

What Genetic diseases and/or conditions should my breed be screened for?

The following breeds participate in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) Program. CHIC, working with the breed's parent club, lists the primary health screening tests that breeders should perform on their stock before breeding. This provides basic information for breeders to make more informed breeding decisions in order to reduce the incidence of inherited disease. The results also provide valuable information for potential puppy buyers looking for responsible breeders that health test their breeding stock.

The lists of breed specific health screening recommendations are not all encompassing. There may be other tests appropriate for each breed. And there may be other genetic diseases of concern for which there are no easily accessible screening protocols. For the participating breeds, the CHIC screening tests list the available tests of primary concern and benefit.

How to Research

1. Find a breed below, and click on it to see the diseases and/or conditions which are considered of high importance for screening in that particular breed. The list represents the breeds where the parent club participates in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program and has defined a recommended health testing protocol.
2. Use the OFA Records Search feature to search the parents and relatives of your potential new puppy or dog by dog name, part of name, breed, disease type, etc. Searching by kennel name may also reveal valuable information about other dogs in this kennel. All dogs that have had an OFA screening test with normal results since 1974 are in the searchable online database. Dogs with abnormal results are in the searchable online database if the owner authorized disclosure. If a dog is not listed in the database, it is fair to assume that the dog has not been screened for genetic disease by the OFA, or had abnormal results. The OFA also has a reciprocal agreement to list any available CERF results on dogs with an OFA record.

What if my breed is not listed below?

If your breed is not listed, it should not be interpreted that no health screening tests are appropriate or available. The list reflects the breeds that are participating in the CHIC

- <https://ofa.org/chic-programs/browse-by-breed/>

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

Recommended Tests/CHIC Program Requirements

The OFA, working with the breed's parent club, recommends the following basic health screening tests for all breeding stock. Dogs meeting these basic health screening requirements will be issued Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) numbers. For CHIC certification, all results do not need to be normal, but they must all be in the public domain so that responsible breeders can make more informed breeding decisions. For potential puppy buyers, CHIC certification is a good indicator the breeder responsibility factors good health into their selection criteria. The breed specific list below represents the basic health screening recommendations. It is not all encompassing. There may be other health screening tests appropriate for this breed. And, there may be other health concerns for which there is no commonly accepted screening protocol available.

Screening	Testing options
Hip Dysplasia	One of the following: OFA Radiographic Hip Evaluation SV Evaluation
Elbow Dysplasia	One of the following: OFA Radiographic Elbow Evaluation SV Evaluation
Temperament Test	Results of GSDDCA Temperament test submitted to OFA
Cardiac Evaluation	(Optional but recommended) Standard Congestive Cardiac Exam. Results registered with OFA. Advanced Cardiac Exam Basic Cardiac Exam
Autoimmune thyroiditis	(Optional but recommended) OFA evaluation from an approved laboratory - recommend yearly testing
ACVO Eye Exam	(Optional but recommended) Eye Examination- recommend annually until age 6, every 2 years thereafter
Degenerative Myelopathy	(Optional but recommended) DNA based DM test results from an approved lab

Application Forms

[info@ofa.org/programs/breeds-by-breed/boxed-GR](#)

[Order DNA Tests](#)
[Pay My Bill](#)
[Log In to OFA Online](#)
[Search OFA Health-Tested Dogs](#)

[ABOUT](#)
[CHIC PROGRAM](#)
[DISEASES](#)
[BROWSE BY BREED](#)
[APPLICATIONS](#)
[HEALTH CLINICS](#)
[ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

GOLDEN RETRIEVER

[Health Certificates](#)
[Testing Materials](#)
[Download Reports](#)
[OFAs Health Partners](#)
[OFAs Web Page](#)
[OFAs Web Page](#)

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Screening	Testing options
Hip Dysplasia	One of the following: OFA Radiographic Hip Evaluation PennHIP Evaluation (At least 4 months of age)
Elbow Dysplasia	OFA Radiographic Elbow Evaluation
ACVO Eye Exam	Annual Eye Examinations. Results registered with OFA
Cardiac Evaluation	One of the following: Congenital Cardiac Exam at 12 months or older, with exam by cardiologist Advanced Cardiac Exam Basic Cardiac Exam at 12 months or older, with exam by cardiologist

Application Forms

[Basic Cardiac Application Form](#)
[Hip and/or Elbow Dysplasia Application Form](#)

Notes

In addition to the breed specific requirements above, a CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order to qualify for a CHIC number.

CHIC numbers regenerate automatically within 4 to 5 weeks after all the required test results have been registered with the OFA.

[info@ofa.org/programs/breeds-by-breed/boxed-GR](#)

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[ABOUT](#)
[CHIC PROGRAM](#)
[DISEASES](#)
[BROWSE BY BREED](#)
[APPLICATIONS](#)

Choose one or more of the following application forms

Vet Exam-Related Forms

☐ Hip and/or Elbow Dysplasia
 ☒ Advanced Cardiac
 ☐ Basic Cardiac
 ☒ CAER Eye Certification
 ☐ Congenital Deafness
 ☐ Dentition
 ☐ DNA Based Genetic Disease
 ☐ Gonioscopy
 ☐ Holter Addendum
 ☐ Kidney Database
 ☐ Legg-Calve-Perthes
 ☐ Patellar Luxation
 ☒ Respiration Function (RFGS)
 ☐ Sebaceous Adenitis
 ☐ Serum Bile Acid
 ☐ Shoulder Osteochondrosis
 ☐ Spine
 ☐ Thyroid
 ☐ Tracheal Hypoplasia
 ☐ DNA Disposition

The multipart forms are only available from the attending cardiologist.

The multipart forms are only available from the attending ophthalmologist. If your ophthalmologist is using OFA Online to fill out CAER eye exams, please visit <https://online.ofa.org/> to create your application form online.

This application form is used to register existing DNA test results (test has already been performed and you have the result) for all DNA tests including Clear By Parentage applications. It is NOT to be used to order new DNA tests

A gonioscopy exam can be performed either separately or during a CAER eye exam. Gonioscopy is not considered a stand-alone exam rather it is a suffix to the CAER OFA certification number (e.g. SA-EYE2545/24M-PI-GONIO). Gonioscopies should be completed and submitted within 30 days of a CAER exam to be considered.

If your dog already has an OFA Hip number, use the LCP from OFA HD Number form

This Pilot database is primarily for brachycephalic breeds and is not currently available to the public

Pilot database primarily for Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Boston Terriers, but open to all breeds

Radiography Instructions and Database Application for Bulldogs and brachycephalic breeds

Submit a blood or saliva sample for genetic research. [Learn More](#)

Miscellaneous Forms

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
2300 E Nilfong Blvd, Columbia, MO 65201
Phone (373) 442-5418 | Fax (373) 475-5073 or (373) 443-7544
Office Email: ofa@ofa.org | WebSite: www.ofa.org
Email for Submissions: applications@ofa.org

Application for Hip/Elbow Dysplasia Database

Regional name: _____
Breed: _____ Sex: _____
Microchip/tattoo: _____
Owner name: _____
Billing address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____

Owner e-mail: _____

Authorization to Release Abnormal Results
I hereby authorize the OFA to release the results of its evaluation of the animal described on this application to the public if the results are abnormal.

Veterinary Information
This animal was restrained using: ☐ Physical restraint only ☐ Chemical restraint
☐ I DID verify the microchip/tattoo information on this dog ☐ I DID NOT verify the microchip/tattoo information on this dog
Only dogs with verified Permanent Identification (VIP) will have their results transmitted to the OFA for inclusion in their registration and pedigree documents.

Veterinarian Signature _____

Fees
Animals Over 24 Months:
• Hip evaluation \$45.00
• Elbow evaluation \$45.00
• Hip and elbow evaluations submitted together \$75.00
• Litter of 3 or more submitted together \$120.00
Animals Under 24 Months:
• Preliminary hip evaluation \$35.00
• Preliminary elbow evaluation \$35.00
• Preliminary hip and elbow evaluation submitted together \$60.00
• Litter of 3 or more submitted together \$100.00
Reserve fees - Individuals submitted as a group, owned by same person, or in a 2 month minimum of 3 individuals \$30 per body

See instructions on page 2

Payments can be made by Visa, Mastercard, check or money order (U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank) payable to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.

Party responsible for payment: ☐ Veterinarian ☐ Owner/co-owner ☐ Other **Card type:** ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card number: _____ Cardholder name: _____ Exp. date MM/YY: _____ CVV: _____

Instructions for Taking Images for OFA Dysplasia Evaluations

Images should be permanently identified with:
1. Registered name and/or number
2. Name of veterinary clinic making the film
3. Date the image was taken

OFA Database
The dysplasia control database of the OFA is a voluntary program established to evaluate images and to identify films showing no evidence of dysplasia or other orthopedic problems. All images submitted that are of acceptable diagnostic quality will be reviewed by qualified veterinary radiologists and a consensus report will be returned to the owner of record and referring veterinarian. Only animals that are 24 months of age or older to the day at the time of radiography, with no radiographic evidence of dysplasia, will be assigned a breed OFA number. The OFA does offer a preliminary evaluation for those between 4 months and 23 months of age.

Age Requirement
Only dogs that are 24 months of age, to the day, or older at the time of radiography can qualify for an OFA hip number. In general hip joint status of younger dogs will be evaluated but only a consultation report will be issued. Dogs must be at least 4 months of age for a preliminary evaluation. For toy and small breeds interested in the Legg-Calve-Perthes Database the animal has to be 12 months of age or older. The dog's registration certificate or copy of this information should be available at the time of radiography.

OFA Policy Regarding Release of Preliminary Results (Animals Under 24 Months)
The OFA will post preliminary results if:
• The animal is at least 12 months at the time of radiography
• The animal must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo
• The owner initials the authorization block to release all results (including abnormal results) when the application is initially submitted

Restraint
Obtaining proper position often requires chemical restraint. The OFA recommends chemical restraint to the point of muscular relaxation. The type of agent used (sedative, tranquilizer, or general anesthesia) is best determined by the attending veterinarian.

Positioning
Dorsal recumbency with the rear legs extended and parallel to each other is the preferred positioning. This standard ventrodorsal view is the basis for evaluation of hip joint status with respect to hip dysplasia. Care should be exercised to be sure the pelvis is not tilted. Elbow joints are evaluated in the fully flexed medial to lateral position, additional views are optional.

Digital Submission
Veterinary clinics can register to submit digital images and find detailed directions on how to submit images digitally at www.ofa.org/veterinarian/veterinary-submissions

Image Identification
Permanent identification of the dog on the image is required to be eligible for OFA evaluation. Lead letters, an ID camera, or radio opaque tapes can be used to identify the film. Digital images should have embedded text with the hospital or veterinarian's name, date taken, registered name and/or registration number. OFA does not accept images that need to be accessed through cloud/web-based links or zip files. Images should be attachments and should not require proprietary viewing software.

Exposure
Good contrast is desirable (high mA's, low kVp). Grid techniques are recommended for all large dogs.

Radiation Safety
Proper collimation and protection of attendants is the responsibility of the veterinarian. Gonadal shielding is recommended for male dogs.

Hormonal Effect
Some female dogs show subluxation when radiographed around an estrus cycle which is not apparent when re-radiographed in anestrus. The OFA recommends radiographing 3-4 weeks before or after a heat period or 3-4 weeks after weaning a litter of pups.

Application for OFA Film Evaluation
The owner or agent must complete and sign the OFA application form. If available, please attach a copy of the dog's registration papers. Application forms are available on request from the OFA and from the OFA website at www.ofa.org. The **image, signed form, and service fee** should be mailed together to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals at the address on the front of this form.

Should OFA hips or PennHip be done?

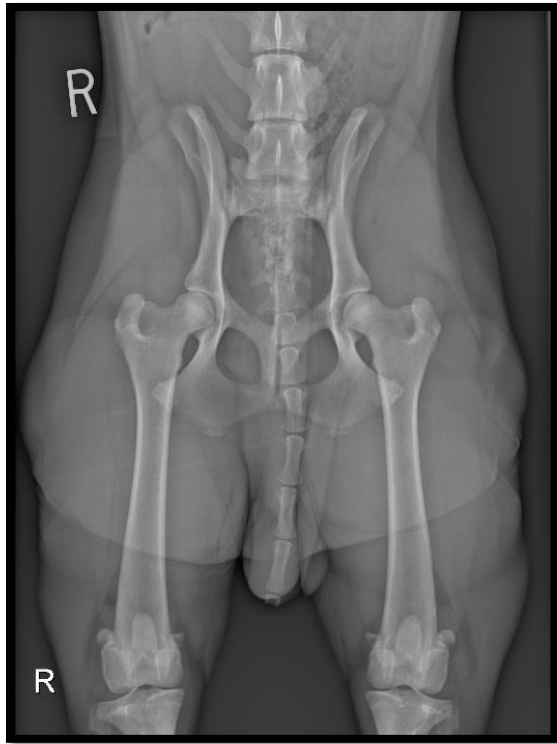
OFA Hip vs PennHip

- OFA Hip
 - 1 image –Extended VD
 - Subjective-consensus evaluation
 - 2y of age
- PennHip
 - 3 images
 - Objective Measurements
 - Training required to obtain images
 - <https://info.antechimagingsservices.com/pennhip/online-training/>
 - 16w of age
 - Breed specific evaluation

Sedation

- OFA does not require sedation (recommend)
- PennHip Requires sedation
 - Many options
 - AU Therio uses-
 - Dexmedetomidine 10mcg/kg IV
 - Butorphanol 0.25 mg/kg IV
 - Reversal- Atipamezole IM

Hip extended



Compression



Distracted



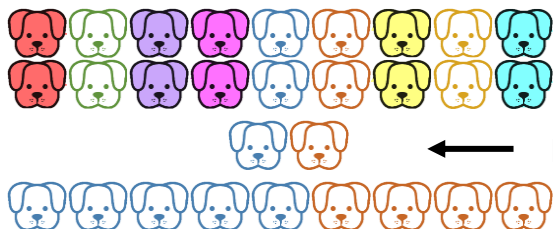
Puppies with hip dysplasia:

- Both parents with standard radiographs: 23.0%
- 1 parent with standard radiographs & 1 parent with standard radiographs AND Laxity: 7.5%
- Both parents with standard radiographs AND Laxity: 1.6%

How are DNA testing results used for breeding decisions?

Important to remember:

- When it comes to genetics, pure bred dogs should be treated like an endangered species.
- DNA tests are NOT diagnostic for the disease.



High diversity; lots of genetic mutations w/ low frequency

• Bottleneck

Low diversity; Few genetic mutations w/ high frequency

- Interpreting Genetic Test
 - Individual- Will this dog get this disease?
 - Evaluate the specific disease/condition
 - Variable presentation between breeds
 - Simple fully penetrant diseases
 - Incomplete penetrance
 - Complex mode of inheritance
 - other genetics
 - environmental factors
- <https://omia.org/home/>
 - Combining Individual- Will the puppies get this disease?
 - Autosomal recessive
 - Autosomal dominant
 - X-link dominant
 - X-link recessive

Degenerative Myelopathy



The screenshot shows the OMIA website interface. At the top, there's a header with the University of Sydney logo and the text "OMIA - ONLINE MENDELIAN INHERITANCE IN ANIMALS". Below this is a navigation bar with links like "OMIA", "SYDNEY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY SCIENCE", "UNIVERSITY HOME", and "CONTACTS". A search bar is also present. The main content area displays the entry for "OMIA:000263-9615 : Degenerative myelopathy in *Canis lupus familiaris* (dog)". It includes categories like "Nervous system phenes", links to human traits in OMIM, and a detailed species-specific description of the disease.

OMIA:000263-9615 : Degenerative myelopathy in *Canis lupus familiaris* (dog)

Categories: [Nervous system phenes](#)

Links to possible relevant human trait(s) and/or gene(s) in OMIM: [105400 \(trait\)](#) , [147450 \(gene\)](#) , [618598 \(trait\)](#)

Mendelian trait/disorder: yes

Mode of inheritance: Autosomal recessive

Considered a defect: yes

Key variant known: yes

Year key variant first reported: 2009

Species-specific name: Canine degenerative myelopathy

Species-specific symbol: DM

Species-specific description: This is an adult onset degeneration of the spinal cord that progresses to paraplegia and tetraparesis. There is no successful treatment. A genetic test is available. A different mutation in the SOD1 gene causes an early onset disease: [OMIA:002322-9615](#) : Dyskinesia, paroxysmal, SOD1-related in *Canis lupus familiaris*.

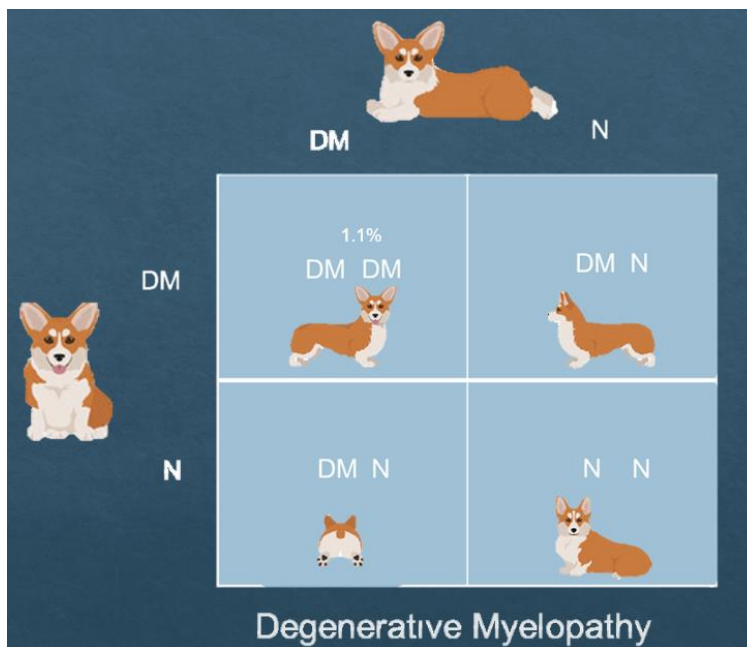
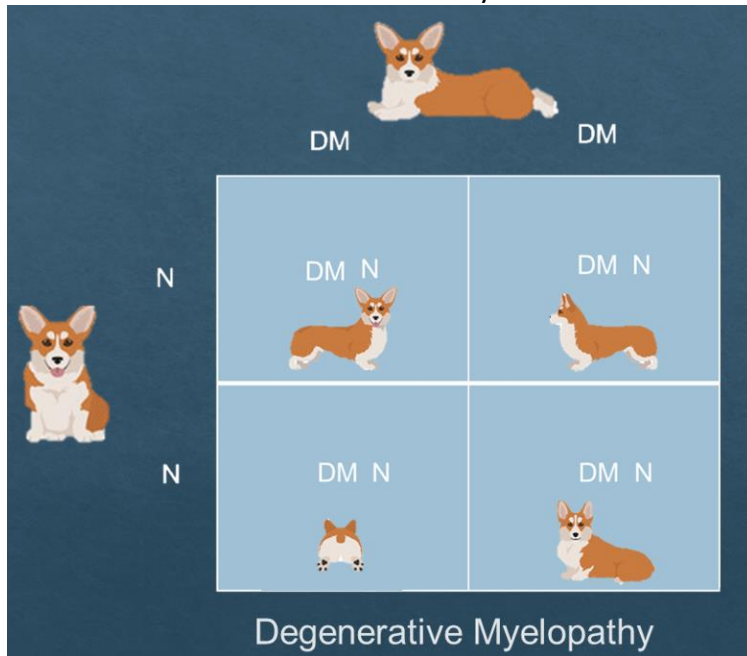
Pembroke Welsh Corgi

- Evaluate the specific disease/condition
 - How it presents in this breed
- 52.7% Homozygous at risk (DM DM)
- 35.1% Heterozygous carriers (DM N)
- 12.2% Homozygous normal (N N)

Degenerative Myelopathy

Pembroke Welsh Corgi

- 52.7% Homozygous at risk (DM DM)
- Incomplete penetrance
 - 98.9% will never develop disease
 - Familial history



Pembroke Welsh Corgi

- Hip dysplasia
- Eye disorders

- Elbow dysplasia
- Degenerative Myelopathy
- Von Willebrand's
- Cardiac health
- Breeding program goals

A bitch was accidentally bred, is there a shot for that?

- Is this a dog that will be bred in the future?
 - No- Spay
 - Yes

Medical Termination

- Previously used medications
- Most commonly used medications
- Newer used medication

Do not handle any of these medications if there is any possibility that you could be pregnant.

Estradiol cypionate (ECP)

- Long-acting estrogenic compound
- Side effects
 - Prolonged estrus
 - Predispose to pyometra
 - Bone marrow toxicity
 - Thrombocytopenia
 - Aplastic anemia
 - Leukocytosis
 - Leukopenia
- No longer recommended

Multi-modal

- Prostaglandin F2a; Dopamine agonists, Prostaglandin E1, Antiemetic
- 30 d. post tie
- Confirm pregnancy
 - 62% not pregnant
- Hospitalization
 - Close monitoring
 - Until complete
 - 5-10 days
 - 2 p4 <2ng/ml 24 hr apart
- Next cycle sooner

Multi-modal

- Prostaglandin F2a (PGF2a)
 - Luteolytic
- Lutalyse/ Cloprostenol
 - Multiple injections per day
 - Side effects

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Trembling
- Panting

Multi-modal

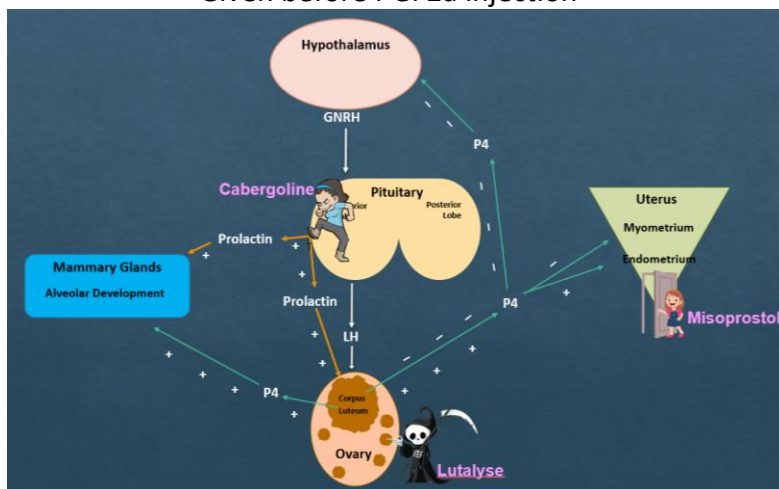
- Dopamine agonists
 - suppresses prolactin secretion
- Cabergoline or Bromocriptine
 - Once daily
 - Oral tablet
 - human compounding pharmacy for small dogs
 - Side effects
 - Nausea
 - Rare vomiting

Multi-modal

- Prostaglandin E1 (PGE1)
- Misoprostol
 - Once daily
 - Intravaginally
 - Side effects
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Abdominal pain

Multi-modal

- Antiemetic
- Cerenia (Maropitant)
 - Injectable or oral
 - Once daily
- Atropine
 - Injectable
 - Given before PGF2a injection



Aglepristone

- Special import permit
- Synthetic, steroidal antiprogesterone
- 2 injections 24 hours apart
 - 10mg/kg/day
 - Day 0-45
 - Early pregnancy <21d
 - Prevents pregnancy; None- Slight discharge
 - Late pregnancy 21-45d
 - Terminates pregnancy; Discharge- expelled tissue
- \$\$\$\$

Can semen be harvested and frozen after the patient dies?

Epididymal Semen Harvesting

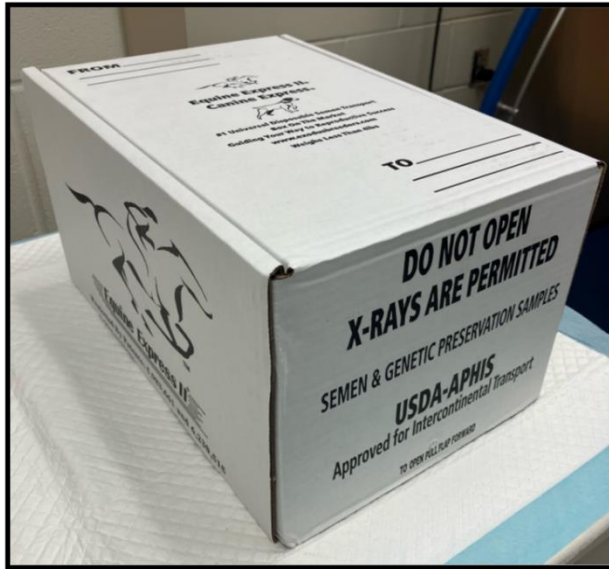
- YES!!
 - Post mortem
 - Post castration
- Things to consider
 - Semen quality is decreased
 - Last effort
 - Extremely time sensitive
 - \$\$\$\$

Things to do ASAP

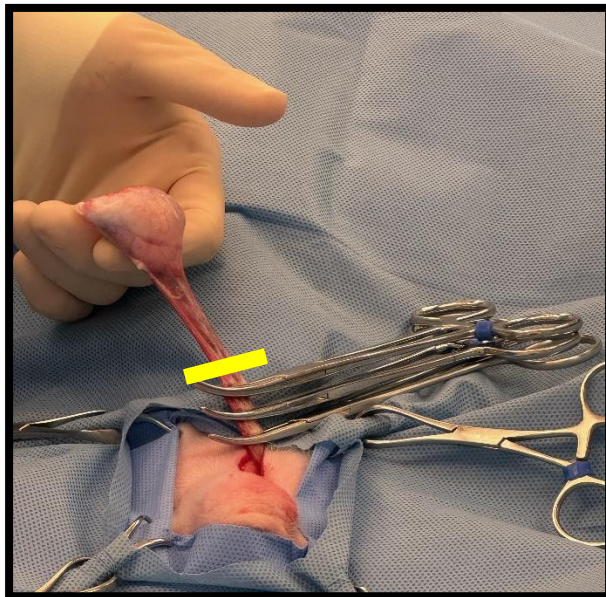
- Contact freezing facility
 - Clinic and/or client
 - Paperwork
- Obtain blood for Brucella testing
- Harvest testicles
- Package testicles

Supplies

- Gloves
- Suture
- Surgical blade
- Hemostats
- Zip lock bag
- Paper towels
- Shipping box with Ice packs
- Packing tape



<https://www.exodusbreeders.com>





Shipping/ Transport

- All about logistics
 - Client drive/deliver
 - FedEx or UPS
 - No shipping/delivery Sundays, holidays, or afterhours
 - Counter to counter w/ courier
 - same day
 - \$\$\$\$

Questions?

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