

Artificial Insemination

Advantages of AI at Churchfield Veterinary Centre:

- AI eliminates the risk of injury to the mare or stallion during natural covering
- AI reduces the risk of sexually transmitted diseases
- AI gives a much greater choice of stallion
- Reduces the need to travel long distances for covering

While artificial insemination is not a cheap option, there is general agreement that it has a number of useful advantages over natural service. The main advantage being the best stallion can be used for local mares no matter where in the world he is standing at stud. It also lessens the risk of injury to both the mare and stallion which can occur during natural covering, and can prevent transmission of infection. Monitoring the mare while she is in season is vital to ensure that the insemination is timed correctly.

Breeding Season

The breeding season will soon be in full swing and Churchfield Veterinary Centre offer a comprehensive A.I. price package for inseminating both chilled and frozen semen. This includes all necessary scans and swabs, drugs to induce ovulation, insemination, wash-out +/- antibiotic infusion after AI, and two pregnancy scans at 16 days and 28 days post insemination. The frozen package reflects the increased number of scans, due to the short life span of this semen. Known difficult breeding mares are charged at a different rate.

Chilled Semen

This type of semen is processed at the stud collection centre, chilled to a temperature of 4°C, and then sent chilled by courier or post for next day insemination. The timing is determined by the mare's ovulation period. Often chilled semen cannot be delivered on a Sunday or Monday because of working conditions at the semen collection centre. The major advantage of chilled semen is the large volume of sperm per dose, and its shelf life that can be 36-48 hours.

Frozen Semen

This type of semen is frozen at the collection centre and sent to us in the frozen state to be stored in our liquid nitrogen containers. Then we have the semen on site for whenever we wish to use it to inseminate a mare. The timing of insemination is critical as thawed sperm survival time in the mare is limited to approximately 12 hours.

Fresh Semen

This type of semen may also be used. This is semen taken from the stallion at the stud, processed with an extender to keep the sperm alive, but must be used within 2 hours as the sperm will not survive beyond this time.

A.I. Success Rate at Churchfield Vets

Our overall success rate has been consistent at 70%-80% for both chilled and frozen semen. The lower rate is due to older mares being outside the acceptable age of 3-16 years and mares which haven't had a foal previously.

A.I. Prices 2019 (livery extra)

- Chilled semen package: £318 incl vat for first cycle.
- Chilled semen package for second and subsequent cycles : £300 incl vat
- Frozen semen package: £450 incl vat for the first cycle.
- Frozen semen package for second and subsequent cycles: £360 incl vat
- Fees to be paid on mare collection

Please don't hesitate to ring the Equine Team (01226 763542 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm) for advice or to have a discussion on any aspects of breeding, and we will do our best to help.

