

Canine Breeding Management

The Iowa State Theriogenology Service offers comprehensive reproductive services to fit all of your reproductive needs. We offer breeding management for fresh, shipped cooled, and frozen semen on an inpatient and/or outpatient basis. Our routine breeding management appointments are described below.

We recommend ovulation timing (serum progesterone and vaginal cytology) 5-7 days after the initial observation of vaginal discharge and swelling. To best ensure an appointment spot, we recommend to call once signs of estrus are noted to schedule her first appointment. A test for *Brucella canis* (Brucellosis) may be performed with your regular veterinarian prior to the first appointment with proof of negative test provided. We require this test to be performed on each cycle for breeding females and recommend breeding males are tested every 6 months. Our initial ovulation timing appointment will include the following:

- Office fee
- Physical exam
- *Brucella canis* screening
- Serum progesterone test
- Vaginal cytology

After the initial appointment, we may recommend to recheck progesterone values and vaginal cytology every 2-3 days to ensure appropriate tracking of her estrous cycle and determine the ideal time for breeding(s).

- Breeding management exam
- Serum progesterone test
- Vaginal cytology

At the time of breeding, ISU Theriogenology is able to perform either a vaginal insemination or a transcervical insemination (TCI) based on quality of semen and/or client's desires.

ISU Theriogenology is also willing to work with an outside Veterinarian for ovulation timing due to the frequency of visits often needed and distance to potentially travel to ISU. We ask that we are notified when the **initial** ovulation timing is occurring and at which veterinary clinic. Additionally, ISU Theriogenology is willing to interpret progesterone values, time a breeding, and perform an insemination if blood is sent directly to the ISU Veterinary Clinical Pathology Laboratory. Due to innate variability and difficulty to compare values from at home and counter-top progesterone machines, we will not accept progesterone values performed by a non-veterinarian professional as the sole source of ovulation timing. We want to confirm we are breeding at an appropriate time to ensure the best chance of a pregnancy and hopeful litter size for our clients to maximize all chances for success.

While the ISU Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center is open on the weekends and holidays for Emergency Services only, the Theriogenology Service understands that breeding may have to occur during the weekend hours. ISU will be available for cooled shipped or fresh semen breeding on Saturdays only at the discretion of the doctor on duty. However, to be able to have a breeding performed on Saturday, we will require the female be established with ISU Theriogenology Service during the estrous cycle she will be bred with at least one progesterone test performed with the ISU Theriogenology Service prior to scheduling a weekend breeding. Due to the nature of frozen semen breeding, we will allow Sunday and holiday breeding based off of ovulation timing.