



SSCH Late Summer Newsletter

Dog Day in the Park (DDIP)—A Successful Community Event

A sunny day and cool tropical breezes assisted to make the first SSCH sponsored Dog Day in the Park a successful community event. Although more foot traffic was anticipated, doggie people came out to have fun in the park and watch and/or participate in the different activities planned for the day.

Judge David Char selected Harley's Woman of the Year (Maedel) as his Best in Match at the SSCH Fun Match held earlier in the morning. He commented on his selection complimenting the balance and outline of his BIM pick.

There was also an impromptu handling class by Harvey Yamashita that drew many first time and/or novice handlers in a large class of all breed dogs. Several of the novice handlers commented on how fun and enjoyable the handling class was and appreciated the manner in which the class was presented and coached.

The Chihuahua Olympics began at 1 pm and was a rousing success in the dress-up relays and other events. Not to be outdone, the Dachshund Club held a Bizarre Bazaar and dachshunds were seen in abundance at the park. The Boxer club and Bearded Collies rounded out the breed clubs participating in the DDIP. Additionally, a free handling class was held at 1 pm by the Hawaiian Kennel Club with another large class of all breed participants.

It was a beautiful day to be out with our dogs and sharing information with companion sheltie owners as well as experiencing the camaraderie between SSCH members with views, ideas as well as grooming and handling tips exchanged in a non-competitive venue.

The donations collected by the SSCH for Compassion 4 Animals, a non-profit rescue organization, totaled \$175.00 and was much appreciated by Christy Deutsch, founder and primary organizer for Compassion 4 Animals.

Look for two separate pieces on the Dog Day in the Park event with our own Ken Young as the voice / face of the SSCH on Olelu (channel 16) in the upcoming weeks. We will share the date that the interview is aired via email.

Lastly, a big mahalo to all the SSCH members involved in DDIP as volunteers to assist in making this first attempt a success. A special mahalo to Ken Young for coordinating the Fun Match as well as the Grounds set-up and break-down, Sharon Katahira for marketing DDIP, David Char for judging the Fun Match, and Harvey Yamashita for the wonderful handling class.

Additional thanks and acknowledgement to the following SSCH members and non-members: M. Iwanaga, S. Kaneshiro, S. Uehara, C. Toshi, D. Kamakana, L. Sawamura, C. Nishimoto, G. Katahira, K. Doi, K. Ort, and K. Fujinaga. Mahalo to you all!



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IMPORTANT: 10
September GM Meeting on Proposed Bylaw Revisions

Friendly Reminders:

- *Sunday, 9/20/09 at 1000 Darlene's home—SPECIAL SSCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING to review, discuss and vote on recommended revisions to the SSCH Bylaws*
- *Next General Membership Meeting is on Sunday, 10/18/09 at 10 a.m. at Thomas Square*
- *October SSCH Specialty is on Sunday, 10/25/09 at Thomas Square*
- *November Elections for 2010 Officers and Board*

WOKC All Breed Results

Gentle trade winds assisted with cooling the otherwise humid conditions on both Saturday and Sunday at the West Oahu Kennel Club show in August. Congratulations to the winners of record!

Saturday: Judge Lowell Davis

- **BOB / Group 2**—CH Tristar Summerwynn Top Model, Breeder: D. Kamakana, Owner: H. Yamashita
- **BOS/BOW/WD**—Lynroc Paint the Sky Akirene, Breeders: N. Takenoshita, J. Thuener & R. Oishi, Owners: J. Thuener, N. Takenoshita & R. Oishi
- **WB**—El Solo Serenity [New CH], Breeder: M. Norstrom, K. Aston & P. Culumovic, Owner: S. Wong & M. Norstrom
- **RWD**—Pacific Blue My Way, Breeder: S. Kaneshiro & S. James, Owners: S & M Kaneshiro
- **RWB**—El Solo Tristar Sharaz, Breeder: M. Norstrom & Yvonne DeFreitas, Owner: D. Kamakana & M. Norstrom

Sunday: Judge Arlene Davis

- **BOB / Group 3**—CH Tristar Summerwynn Top Model, Breeder: D. Kamakana, Owner: H. Yamashita
- **BOS/BOW/WD**—Lynroc Paint the Sky Akirene, Breeders: N. Takenoshita, J. Thuener & R. Oishi, Owners: J. Thuener, N. Takenoshita & R. Oishi
- **WB**—El Solo Tristar Sharaz, Breeder: M. Norstrom & Yvonne DeFreitas, Owner: D. Kamakana & M. Norstrom
- **RWD**—Pacific Blue My Way, Breeder: S. Kaneshiro & S. James, Owners: S & M Kaneshiro
- **RWB**—Harley's Woman of the Year, Breeder: M. Iwanaga & M. Norstrom, Owner: M. Iwanaga & M. Norstrom

HKC Results

The first collaboration between the Valley Island Kennel Club of Maui and the Hawaiian Kennel Club allowed dog fanciers an opportunity for a third day of shows over the Labor Day weekend. Congratulations to the winners of record!

Saturday: Judge Keith George Brown

- **BOB/ Group 2** - CH Mindalyn-Winterset Sunrunner, Breeder: C. DuPree, Owners: S. Ferroni-Keleher & P. Strametz
- **BOW / WD** - Aynsworth Cinnabar Moonlit, Breeder: E. Worthington, Owner: N. Chock
- **BOS** - CH Tristar Summerwynn Top Model, Breeder: D. Kamakana, Owner: H. Yamashita
- **WB** - El Solo Serendipity, Breeder: M. Norstrom, Owner: M. Norstrom
- **RWD** - Lynroc Paint the Sky Akirene, Breeder: N. Takenoshita, J. Thuener & R. Oishi, Owner: J. Thuener, N. Takenoshita & R. Oishi
- **RWB** - El Solo Tristar Sharaz, Breeder: M. Norstrom & Y. DeFreitas, Owner: D. Kamakana & M. Norstrom

Sunday: Judge Barbara Dempsey Alderman

- **BOB / Group 2 / BOW/ WD** - Daval True Color, Breeder: A. Carty, Owner: P. Strametz, S. Ferroni-Keleher, A. Carty
- **BOS** - CH Migelon Mosaic, Breeder: J. & R. Cruthers & D. Cornelssen, Owner: G & C Nishimoto & E.H. Chang
- **WB** - Harley's Woman of the Year, Breeder: M. Iwanaga & M. Norstrom, Owner: M. Iwanaga & M. Norstrom
- **RWD** - Lynroc Paint the Sky Akirene, Breeder: N. Takenoshita, J. Thuener & R. Oishi, Owner: J. Thuener, N. Takenoshita & R. Oishi
- **RWB** - El Solo Serendipity, Breeder: M. Norstrom, Owner: M. Norstrom

VIKCM All Breed Results

Monday: Judge Charles E. Trotter

BOB / Group 3 – CH Winterset Hy-Verta Spice of Life CD RN AX AXJ NF, Breeders: S. Ferroni-Keleher & P. Strametz, Owners: P. Strametz, S. Ferroni-Keleher

BOW / WD [New CH]– Lynroc Paint the Sky Akirene, Breeder: N. Takenoshita, J. Thuener & R. Oishi, Owner: J. Thuener, N. Takenoshita & R. Oishi

BOS – CH Mindalyn-Winterset Sunrunner, Breeder: C. DuPree, Owners: S. Ferroni-Keleher & P. Strametz

WB – El Solo Tristar Sharaz, Breeder: M. Norstrom & Y. DeFreitas, Owner: D. Kamakana & M Norstrom

RWD – Pacific Blue My Way, Breeder: S. Kaneshiro & S. James, Owner: S & M Kaneshiro

RWB – Harley’s Woman of the Year, Breeder: M. Iwanaga & M. Norstrom, Owner: M. Iwanaga & M. Norstrom



Nominated Judges for 2010—2011 Specialty Seasons

The 2009 SSCH membership nominations for judges include the following judges. Please remember that no matter how many times a judge’s name is nominated, it counts as a single nomination through the judge procurement process approved by the SSCH membership in 2008.

As a reminder, breeder-judge and ASSA member, Janet Fink has agreed to judge the March 28, 2010 Specialty at Thomas Square. We are currently waiting on AKC confirmation of her judging assignment. The following ASSA breeder-judges are eligible to judge the 2010—2011 SSCH specialties.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--|--------------|
| • Brunner, Larry | Prinhill | • Danforth, George | Romayne |
| • Christy, Susan | Carloway | • Eads, Brandol | BranGay |
| • Churchill, Linda | Sandalwood | • Eads, Gayle | BranGay |
| • Clem-McGowan, Charlotte | Rorralore | • Gammill, E. Katie | Indian Creek |
| • Cornelsson, Denise | Miqelon | • Greendale-Paveza, Sulie | Sonata |
| | | • Harderlie, Jan (<i>provisional</i>) | Sumersong |
| | | • Hawes, Diane | Wistin |
| | | • Healy, Suzanne (<i>provisional</i>) | Solaire |
| | | • Henson, Glenda | Glenarry |
| | | • Houston-McMillan, Mark | GrandGables |
| | | • Jeavons, Guy | GrandGables |
| | | • Kelsey, Judith | Dury Voe |
| | | • Linden, Barbara | September |
| | | • Mertzger, Maureen | Maramet |
| | | • More, Linda | Severn |
| | | • Skinner, Patricia (<i>provisional</i>) | Homewood |
| | | • Thompson, Barbara | Barwood |
| | | • Tull-Swinson, Charlotte | Tull-E-Ho |
| | | • Virden, Jo (<i>provisional</i>) | Loyal |
| | | • Wilkins, Kathy | Lochlyn |
| | | • Williams, Melanie | Lochanora |
| | | • Wright, Barbara | Chosen |



New Flu Vaccine Approved for Dogs

The New York Times
By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
June 29, 2009



There is a new flu virus going around. It initially looked quite lethal, and caused panic. Now it is clear that it has killed relatively few victims – and many of those have underlying conditions. It is particularly dangerous to be the possessor of a push-in nose – that is, to be a Pekingese, pug or Shi-Tzu.

It is the H3N8 dog flu. The virus, scientists believe, jumped from horses to dogs at least five years ago, but it has never infected a human.

Last week, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that it had approved the first vaccine for it.

While fears of a flu pandemic among humans have shifted from the lethal H5Nq avian flu to the relatively mild H1N1 swine flu, the H3N8 canine flu has been a quiet undercurrent in the United States, rarely discussed except among veterinarians and dog owners in the few areas where it has struck hard: Florida, New York City's northern suburbs, Philadelphia and Denver.

In line with the virologists' adage that the only predictable thing about flu viruses is that they are unpredictable, the dog flu has baffled those following it.

"I don't think we know what this virus is going to do yet," said one of its discoverers, Dr. Cynda Crawford of the University of Florida veterinary school.

When Dr. Crawford began studying it in January 2004, it had come to her notice as a mysterious cough and pneumonia that killed a third of the greyhounds at a Florida dog track. By the next year, she had found it in seven states and had shown that it could be passed by dogs who just rubbed noses on the street or shared a water dish, and that humans could carry it on their clothes. There was a brief flurry of fear that it would kill 1 percent to 10 percent of the country's 70 million dogs.

It has proved about as deadly as Dr. Crawford predicted. She estimates that by itself, it kills 5 percent of the dogs that catch it. Add the deaths in shelters that eliminate the virus by killing all their dogs and disinfecting their cages, and the total mortality is 8 percent. (By contrast, the mortality rate of the 1918 Spanish flu in humans was about 2 percent)

But it has not spread nearly as vigorously as she expected. It has now been found in 30 states, but almost exclusively in settings where dogs live closely together: shelters, pet stores, kennels and dog schools. Because the owners of these establishments have learned to turn away sick dogs just as a school principal facing swine flu send home sick children, the disease's progress has been slowed.

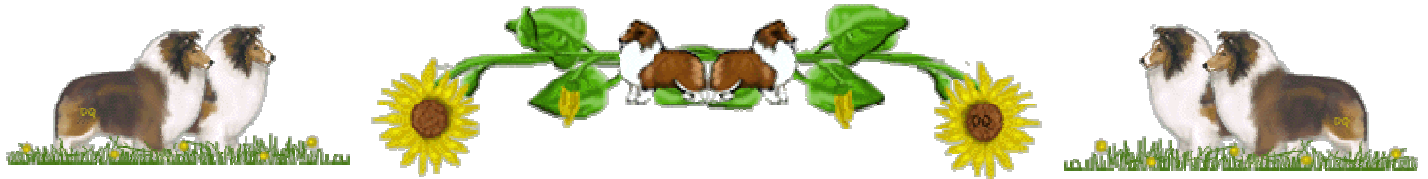
"Probably of 10,000 dogs have been infected," Dr. Crawford said, "but I can't say whether it's 20,000 or 30,000. In a population of 70 million, that's a drop in the bucket."

Dr. Edward J. Dubovi of the veterinary school at Cornell University, another discoverer of the virus, said it is "probably not as well adapted to dogs as it could be." It took five mutations to let it jump to dogs from horses, where it had circulated for 40 years.

Another mutation or two "could make it a very serious issue," he said, but at the moment, "it takes a certain density of dogs to keep it going." Some veterinarians have found that the dogs that tend to die from it are "brachycephalics" – dogs with short snub noses.

Just as obesity has proved dangerous to human flu victims because the weight on their chests, being bred to have a short, bent respiratory tract is dangerous for dogs.

"It really puts a strain on their ability to breathe," Dr. Crawford said. "They can't move air in and out of their lungs."



Canine Genetic and Reproductive Issues

This collection of articles is a continuation from the Summer SSCH Newsletter and will continue to run for the next couple of newsletters due to the length of the articles. This was a presentation done in March 1999 and presented by the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in cooperation with the AKC Canine Health Foundation and Ralston Purina Company.

MAXIMIZING CONCEPTION RATES USING FRESH COOLED OR FROZEN CANINE SEMEN

*Robert V. Hutchison, DVM
Animal Clinic Northview, Inc.*

Since the American Kennel Club's recognition of litters conceived from frozen semen in 1981 and the subsequent acceptance of fresh chilled semen, practitioners are being asked more frequently to assist clients with maximizing conception rates using these breeding techniques. The gratification one feels when successful is one of the great rewards in veterinary medicine. The basis of fresh chilling and freezing semen is energy conservation within the sperm cell so that the semen can be shipped or used at a later date. The drawback to these methods is that even though some energy is conserved, enough energy is used to shorten the sperm cell's life.

Fresh semen is thought to live four to six days in utero. The freshly ejaculated sperm life allows for successful breeding when the bitch exhibits standing and acceptance of the male, even though in many cases the timing is 4 to 6 days before the prime fertilization period of the mature ova.

FRESH CHILLED SEMEN

Fresh chilled semen uses energy as it is cooled to 40°F (4°C) and eventually re-warmed to body temperature. The life in utero of a spermatozoon having experienced the chilling and subsequent warming process is 24 to 72 hours, necessitating a more precise manner of ovulation timing and breeding. When sperm is frozen for future use, it is eventually stored at -322°F. (-180°C). This extreme temperature preserves a sperm cell indefinitely but not without stress and energy output. The thawed spermatozoa has a maximum life span of twelve to 24 hours after insemination into the bitch. The ultra-short life span makes success with frozen semen only possible with precise mapping of the bitch's estrous cycle with definitive detection of the LH release and the subsequent time of ovulation. When a veterinarian receives a fresh chilled sample, the package should be opened immediately. Attention should be paid to the "impression of coolness". The ice packs should be at least cold, if not still frozen. The package containing the semen should be removed from the packaging material (usually newsprint). The tube should contain the extended semen in a liquid state. Unfortunately, occasional mishandling by the shipping company or by the shipper placing the semen package in a non-pressurized compartment of the airplane will cause the sample to arrive frozen. The freezing kills the sperm cell and renders the sample useless.

One drop of the sample should be placed on a warmed microscope slide. The rest of the sample should be refrigerated. Allowing the chilled sample to warm to room temperature only allows the sperm cells to speed up, using precious energy and shortening their life span.

As the drop warms on the slide, the accompanying paperwork with the semen collector's evaluation of the semen quality, time of collection and post-collection motility should be studied. The semen drop is then analyzed and

compared to the collector's evaluation.

In many cases, the semen will appear to be non-motile. However, as the semen drop warms gradually side to side motility becomes noted. The continued warming eventually shows the cells to have achieved a normal forward progression. If no motility is noted after fifteen minutes, the sample is most likely non-viable. If this occurs the collector of the semen should be contacted to determine, if possible, the cause of the semen's demise. In other cases where only partial semen recovery is noted, the inseminator must use judgment based on the connection of the semen, estimated total spermatozoa numbers and the percent recovered. It may also be necessary to alter the insemination method to that of an intra-uterine deposition of the fresh chilled sperm to further remove sperm cell stress and to aid its arrival at the fallopian tubes.

It is recommended that the refrigerated fresh chilled sample not be warmed to room temperature or body temperature before insemination. Having the sample in the uterus as it warms makes maximum use of the conserved energy. All fresh chilled semen samples are handled in a similar manner. However, many different commercial companies sell packaging kits and extenders. One should always read their instructions for any specific handling recommendations.

FROZEN SEMEN

Frozen semen does require even more precise handling than fresh cooled semen. Frozen semen will usually be shipped in a dewer with nitrogen vapor keeping the sample frozen rather than with actual liquid nitrogen in the container.

When the shipper arrives, the tank will be in a protective shell. The shell should be opened and the plug pulled (not twisted) from the nitrogen tank. Visible vapor should be seen assuring the recipient that the tank is charged properly and that the sample is still frozen. If vapor is noted the plug should be replaced until the time of insemination. If no vapor is seen, an attempt should be made to ascertain that the sample is still in a proper frozen state. This can be accomplished by grasping the cane that holds the semen and raising it to the mouth of the dewer. If the sample is thawed, the semen will not be viable and a replacement sample should be obtained if possible.

If the sample is frozen, the person that shipped the sample should immediately be contacted to discuss the tank status and determine if some liquid nitrogen should be added to the dewer to assure that the sample will remain frozen until time for the insemination.

Canine semen is frozen in two different forms, 1) pellets and 2) straws. Both are extremely successful in achieving conception; however, it is essential that the doctor doing the insemination follows the thawing instructions precisely. Most thawing techniques require that the person using the semen has a form of warm water bath available. A form describing the semen's quality, both pre and post thaw should have accompanied the shipment. These values can be used to judge the quality of the thaw before insemination. Each individual that freezes canine semen has a specific manner of handling and thawing their product. There is no room for error.

TIMING OF INSEMINATION

Historically, methods of timing the estrous-cycle of the bitch such as color of discharge, swelling of the vulva and flagging of the tail allowed breeders to get bitches bred, but using these signs, in many cases, created more confusion than answers. Vaginal cytology, a rough gauge of estrogen level, has been used by veterinarians and breeders to "pinpoint" the time of ovulation. Vaginal smearing at best gives a retrospective view of the cycle with diestrus, day one, occurring six days post-ovulation. However, vaginal smearing does not allow prospective timing other than giving information as to when other testing needs to begin. Vaginal cytology is not useful by itself in timing fresh cooled or frozen semen. The same can be said of vagino-scopy, a visual method of evaluating vaginal fold swelling and crenulation that equivocates with estrogen rise and fall.

The serial testing of serum samples from the bitch for either progesterone testing or luteinizing hormone (LH) testing will give the veterinarian a prospective view of the ovulation, ova maturation and the prime fertile period for using the fresh cooled or frozen semen.

PROGESTERONE

The release of progesterone from the ovary and its subsequent rise to an average of two to three ngm corresponds with luteinizing hormone release from the pituitary gland and signifies the start of the ovulatory process. The rise of progesterone is greater than five ngms (five to eight ngm) indicates that ovulation has occurred. Once the ovulation day has been confirmed, fresh cooled semen inseminations in two to three days or frozen semen insemination in three to four days can be planned. Progesterone not being specific, can be tested far by many methods. Numerous elisa kits for in office use are currently available. Progesterone, can also be evaluated by radio-immune assay (RU) by many human and veterinary laboratories.

Progesterone rises and continues to stay elevated for approximately two months in the bitch, whether she is pregnant or non-pregnant. The bitch needs to be tested every 48 hours to anticipate the prime breeding time.

When using the progesterone elisa kits, negative features include that hemolyzed blood samples will give lower than normal results. If the elisa kits are not handled properly or warmed to room temperature, an artificially high result will be recorded. Ideal testing for progesterone level would include screening with the elisa kits, but obtaining RIA progesterone numbers, to define the exact day of ovulation and the corresponding breeding time.

Cortisol release needs to be a concern when doing progesterone testing as stressed bitches may have a delayed period between a rise of two to three ngm/rnl and the time that the progesterone rises greater than five ng/ml. Some bitches under stress have been shown not to ovulate even after a rise of progesterone above two ngm. It is essential if using progesterone testing to corm that the bitch has risen above five ngm/ml and has indeed ovulated.

LUTEINIZING HORMONE

Luteinizing hormone (LIT/ is a species specific hormone arising from the pituitary gland. The release of the hormone spikes over a twelve to 24 hour period. The release of the LH triggers ovulation in 48 hours, allowing for a final meiotic division of the ova and shedding of the polar body (approximately another 48 hours) before the ova can be fertilized. An accurate evaluation of the LH spike can give the veterinarian and breeder four to five days anticipation of the prime insemination dates and reasonable confidence as to the maximum chance of conception.

Unfortunately LH assays are not easily available for canines at the time of this writing. As LH is species specific human laboratories cannot run this assay. An immuno-chromatinographic testing kit is currently available for in office use. The test, status LH (International Canine Genetics, Inc., Malvern, PA 19355 USA), uses a wicking paper with a reaction test zone and is run with 4 drops of serum.

The test develops a distinct colored line (red) when the serum LH rises above one ngm/ml. When the line appears one would anticipate prime breeding time to be in four to five days with fresh cooled semen and five to six days with frozen semen (the variation based on anticipated sperm life in utero).

Negatives to the LH test are that daily samples must be drawn (even greater than 24 hours between tests may miss the LH rise). The cost of daily testing, owner compliance and veterinarian availability far testing every day have created some problems for this testing method. Serum samples that are hemolyzed or lipemic also affect the testing results. LH testing is especially useful in bitches previously tested by progesterone assay that did not conceive or that showed irregular progesterone levels.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Artificial insemination has been a commonly used procedure in small animal reproduction. However, the advent

and common usage of canine frozen and fresh cooled extended semen has refocused clinicians' attention to more precise methods of semen delivery to the bitch's reproductive system the shortness of spermatozoa life. Loss of sperm cell energy in fresh cooled extended semen and frozen semen has necessitated the development of new methods of semen delivery in the bitch. Frozen semen especially benefits from techniques by passing the cervix and the cervical mucous and being deposited directly into the uterine lumen.

Two techniques of artificial insemination are routinely performed and are amenable to the veterinary practitioner dealing with canine reproduction. The two techniques to be described are vaginal insemination and the surgical intra uterine deposition of semen.

VAGINAL INSEMINATION

When proper timing of the estrous cycle is performed on the bitch and proper semen handling and delivery is accomplished, conception rates should rival those of natural breeding. Delivery technique problems such as improper placement of the insemination rod, improper semen placement or semen damage due to mishandling have convinced many dog breeders and veterinarians that artificial inseminations are only used as a last ditch desperate measure.

PROCEDURE

The estrous cycle for the bitch should be monitored using serum progesterone assaying or some other reliable manner to ascertain that ovulation has occurred. Semen motility is evaluated as previously described.

The bitch is positioned with her rear elevated either manually or on a breeding ramp. Care should be taken to avoid pressure on the bitch's abdomen. The semen is drawn from the collection tube through an insemination rod of proper length to reach the cervical OS. It is important that the semen be deposited at the entrance to the cervix so that the semen can be drawn into the uterus. With gloved hands the veterinarian gently inserts the insemination rod through the lips of the vulva at an upward 45 degree angle. The rod is gently passed over the pubis and along the dorsal median fold until it is parallel with the lumbar spine and localized in the area of the cervix. If resistance is encountered the rod should be gently twisted or withdrawn a short distance then re-advanced.

When the insemination rod is properly positioned the semen should be gently inseminated. The syringe is then removed from the rod. It is not necessary to push large amounts of air into the rod nor normal to get semen backflow if the rod is properly positioned and the bitch is in the estrus stage of estrous. Excess air "bubbling" through the semen is detrimental to the fragile plasma membrane of the head of the spermatozoa.

The bitch is then "feathered" digitally for one minute. The rear of the bitch is maintained in an elevated position for six minutes to allow gravitational feeding of semen to the anterior vagina. The bitch owner is instructed to confine the bitch or restrict her activity for one to two hours post-insemination.

SURGICAL INTRA-UTERINE DEPOSITION OF SEMEN

A technique for surgical insemination in the bitch was first described in 1974. The infra-uterine deposition was initially used to increase poor conception rates in the use of canine frozen semen. Since that time, surgical deposition of semen into the uterus has become a routine technique used in numerous situations encountered in canine reproductive medicine.

A) Frozen Semen - Due to the lack of spermatozoa energy buffer chemical makeup, or cervical resistance the conception rates from cryo-preserved canine semen have been historically low when used with a vaginal insemination. Surgical deposition into the uterine lumen has resulted in conception rates equal to those from natural breeding.

B) Fresh Cooled Extended Semen - Shipment of semen rather than shipping bitches has become common place due to shipment time, and spermatozoa energy depletion. Numerous clients have chosen surgical semen insemination for their bitches in hopes of increasing conception rates.

C) **Bitches with Suspected Uterine or Ovarian Disease** - The ability to access uterine and ovarian health at breeding time is advantageous to clinicians presented with bitches with histories of reproductive failure or problems.

D) **Giant and Toy Breeds** - Individuals on the extreme ends of size have historically been recognized for conception difficulties. The ability to overcome anatomical barriers and inseminate directly into the uterus has increased litter numbers and relieved client frustration.

E) **Males with Lowered or Compromised Spermatozoa Numbers** - Little work has been done in the canine to definitively define minimum semen parameter necessary *for* conception by directly depositing the semen into the uterus and bypassing the cervix and vaginal vault. Conception can possibly be achieved with lesser sperm numbers and lesser overall semen quality.

TECHNIQUE

A pre-surgical evaluation is performed on the bitch. Anesthetic induction consists of coning smaller individuals with gas anesthesia (i.e. isoflurane). Larger bitches may require an injection of a standard short acting anesthetic (i.e. propofol) to achieve relaxation for intubation and maintenance with gas anesthesia.

The bitch is prepared in the same manner as a bitch undergoing an ovariohysterectomy. The ventral abdomen is clipped and the bitch is placed in the surgical theater in dorsal recumbency. Prepping of the surgical site is done in a routine manner. The abdomen is draped in preparation for the surgery.

A four to six centimeter incision is made midway between the pubis and the umbilicus. The incision is made in the skin subcutaneous fax through the linea alba. The uterus is identified and elevated to the surface through the incision. The uterus is draped with a saline moistened laparotomy pad as the semen is prepared for the injection procedure.

A volume of semen varying between .5 ml and four ml is prepared for insemination. If the volume is greater than four ml, the semen should be centrifuged for five minutes. The supernatant is decanted and disposed. The semen pellet is gently re-suspended with the remaining supernate or with a semen extender. The semen to be injected is gently drawn into a six-ml syringe through an insemination rod. The rod is removed and a 22 gauge, 1/4 inch needle is attached to the syringe.

The surgeon inserts the needle into the lumen of the uterine body at a 45-degree angle with the bevel of the needle up. The semen is slowly injected into the uterus. The semen should flow easily with obvious distention of the uterine horns. If the injection cannot be achieved or is difficult, the needle should be repositioned. A saline moistened gauze is held over the injection site after the needle is withdrawn. After one minute, the gauze is removed and the uterus is replaced into the abdomen. Closure of the fascia, muscle, subcutaneous tissue and skin is routine.

The bitch's rear is elevated as she recovers from the anesthesia. The infra-uterine pressure during the surgical deposition of the semen may cause mild backflow through the cervix into the vaginal cavity, this appears to be of no concern. if the surgeon has doubt as to the semen being placed in the uterine lumen, a post-operative vaginal smear will confirm spermatozoa, if the technique has been performed properly.



September General Membership Meeting on Bylaws



There will be a special General Membership meeting on Sunday, September 20th at 10 a.m. at Darlene's home (45-642 Kulukeoe Place, Kaneohe, 247-5918) to review, discuss and vote upon the Bylaws Task Force recommended revisions to the SSCH Bylaws. Please make every effort to attend this meeting to provide your thoughts and voice to these proposed revisions to the Bylaws. If you have any questions regarding the proposed revisions below, please feel free to contact any Board member. The following is a synopsis of the general proposed revisions to the Bylaws:

- Omission of “Junior” membership as a stand-alone membership. Revised Bylaws to reflect “Household” membership replacing “Family” membership with an adult member of the household membership necessary for anyone under 18 years of age to be an SSCH member and to participate in SSCH events in order to mitigate liability for the SSCH. Members under 18 years of age will not have voting privileges and will not be able to hold office similar to current “Junior” membership limitations
 - Inclusion and delineation of active / inactive membership status (see separate posting for details)
 - Revision of Bylaws to state written notification will be “sent” instead of “mailed” to provide alternate venues of written communication such as email. Addition of the offer to membership to have hardcopy notices, newsletters, agendas, minutes, etc. to be mailed to their addresses for an additional fee similar to current ASSA practice
 - Decrease the number of mandated Board meetings from monthly to a minimum of six meetings per year
 - Addition regarding dues—Collection of dues will remain with the Treasurer; however, revise to state that the Treasurer will submit all membership renewal applications to the Secretary (for roster purposes) by January 31st
 - Revise the language regarding special meetings to modify the notification to not more than 30 days prior to any Special General Membership meeting (currently at 15 days)
 - Revise the language regarding special Board meetings to omit the not more than 10 days notification of the special meeting
 - Limiting the Secretary's contact with prospective judges: “He [secretary] shall have charge of all correspondence with the exception of correspondence falling within the responsibilities of the Show Chairman and Show Secretary.”
 - Addition of responsible stewardship of the Club's finances through a review of new proposed activities for the club (see separate posting for details)
 - Revision of the membership dues to omit prorated fees for members joining the SSCH; all new members would be submitting full membership dues no matter what date they join the SSCH
 - Inclusion of “Board Action by Consent” - This addition is specifically for those times when an urgent or unanticipated issue is identified and must be addressed by the Board. In these cases, instead of convening an emergency or special Board meeting, the inclusion allows the Board members to vote on the issue through email or by telephone. As there is no face-to-face time for discussion, any issue voted upon in this manner must have a unanimous Board vote to carry approval and must be documented in the next Board minutes
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