

Richland Ranch Auburn Veterinary Service



Specializing in Equine Reproduction

Mare Breeding Soundness Exam

A mare breeding soundness exam takes into consideration the factors that will influence the mare reproductively. The mare's external genitalia should be examined to check for the need of a caslick, or for problems that could cause uterine contamination, the mare should be checked to make sure she has two teats, and that she is sound enough on her legs to carry the added weight of the foal. Internally the mare should be palpated and ultra sounded to insure that she has two ovaries, her cervix is intact, and checked for any cysts that could interfere with fetal development. A speculum should be used to assess the cervix, palpation of the cervix for tears should also be done. Before the maiden mare is bred her hymen should be opened. If she has been previously bred then a culture should be done (cultures should be done while the mare is in estrus). In older mares or mares that have not been in foal for a while, a uterine biopsy should be taken as well. By taking the time to assess the mare before breeding, any problems can be corrected before a lot of time and money is spent trying to get her in foal.



Broodmare Management

Our team at Richland Ranch will strive to maximize your mare's breeding efficiency whether we are following a mare through a routine cycle or following a problem mare to correct ovarian or uterine problems, we are very experienced in finding ways to get and keep your mare in foal. Often times, the primary problem is simply timing ovulation with breeding to get a pregnancy to occur.

Shipped Semen Receiving

Managing a cycle for shipped semen can be costly having your veterinarian keep coming out to ultrasound and breed your mare. Then timing fed-ex with the veterinarian to come out and breed your mare can be a nightmare. We coordinate the shipment of semen, your mare simply hangs out at the ranch and we do all the work. We will coordinate with the shipping farm delivery of the semen, give the appropriate drugs to cause ovulation to be timed, monitor the mares cycle, breed the mare, confirm an ovulation, and take all the guess work out of shipped semen breeding. As well as evaluate the semen upon arrival and before the mare is bred.

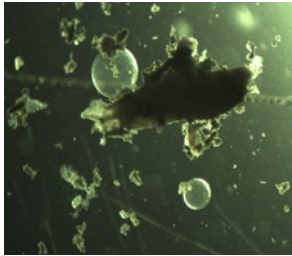


Frozen Semen Receiving

Cycle management can be intense for frozen semen mating. With current protocols trying to breed a mare within six hours of ovulation means around the clock palpations and ultrasound. Our staff veterinarian and technicians monitor your mare's cycle, and give ovulatory drugs to time the insemination. Then monitor the uterus to insure no adverse reactions happen.

Low Dose Semen Insemination

When only a few straws are available for breeding, or a mare's uterus is unable to withstand the stress of breeding we can use low dose insemination. A catheter is inserted through the cervix and then manipulated down the uterine horn and semen is deposited at the uterine horn fallopian tube junction in small amounts (normally less than 1.5 cc.)



Embryo Transfer

During the breeding process the mares are examined daily to accurately determine the day of ovulation. Seven to eight days after ovulation, a catheter is inserted into the donor mare's uterus. The uterus is sequentially flushed with 3-4 separate liters of a special electrolyte/nutrient solution. The solution is passed through a filter from which the embryo is recovered using a microscopic search. After recovery and evaluation, the embryo is washed to remove any contaminants, placed in a nutrient media, and either inserted through the cervix and into the uterus of a specially prepared recipient mare or shipped to an embryo transfer facility.

Embryo Vitrification

Once an embryo is recovered it can be flash frozen until a recipient mare is available. The embryo is stored in liquid nitrogen until thawed and placed into a recipient mare. According to research the embryo should be able to be stored indefinitely.



Foaling Out

We provide around the clock mare monitoring. Each foaling is attended by a qualified staff member and each foal receives a physical from our staff veterinarian within hours of birth. We have closed circuit television monitors around the farm to insure that each mare is always being monitored.

Stallion Breeding Soundness Exam

A stallion breeding soundness exam is performed at the start of breeding season to insure that the stallion is healthy enough to breed mares for the season, insure that the stallion is free of disease, and to decide the number of mares the stallion should be booked to. The exam should include a testicular evaluation and measurement, semen quality assessment (including concentration, motility, morphology, volume, and culture); physical health of the stallion should also be assessed. This assessment can prevent a subfertile stallion from being over booked, and catch any health concerns before they become problems.

Stallion Management

Collecting, evaluating, and extending semen to provide a product that allows for the optimal in breeding success is the goal in our stallion management program. Each stallion is treated as an individual from turn out to daily care. Problem stallions are no problem at all. Our team of professionals will work with your stallion to collect and breed mares to insure the highest percent conception rate.



Cool Shipped Semen Collection/ Packaging

Either on a haul in bases or by residence your stallion's semen can be collected, evaluated, extended, and packaged for shipment across town or across the country. By providing cool shipped semen this allows your stallion to breed mares that normally would be to far away for him to breed. The semen can be packaged and sent fed-ex to where ever the mare is at that wishes to breed to your stallion allowing your stallion to cover more mares than he normally would.



Semen Evaluations

Semen can be collected from your stallion and evaluated (morphology, concentration, live/ dead percentage, motility, and volume) as well as a test cool and test freeze performed to insure that your stallion is being extended in the correct extender and to insure that your stallions semen will with stand the cooling and freezing process. Or you can drop by with a dose of semen and we can evaluate it for you before you ship or breed your mare.

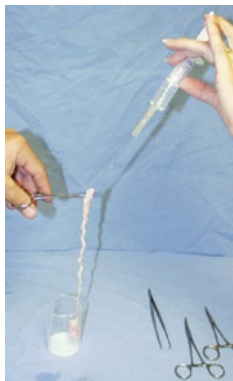
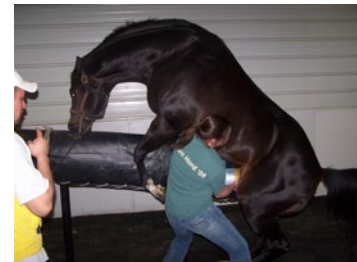


Semen Freezing

Semen is collected from a stallion, evaluated, and extended. Then the semen is placed in a specially designed extender to guard the sperm cell against crystal formation and then vapor frozen in liquid nitrogen for 10 minutes. Once the vapor freeze is complete the semen is plunged into liquid nitrogen. The semen is then stored in the liquid nitrogen until thawed and used to breed a mare. The semen can be stored indefinitely according to current research.

Stallion Collecting Training

Whether a young stallion just entering the breeding shed or an older stallion that just can't physically breed mares anymore, we can provide phantom training.



Epididymal Sperm Recovery

Due to a death or castration stallion testicles can be harvested and sent to our lab. Our technicians will then remove the epididymis and recover any sperm cells present. Following successful recovery the sperm cells can be frozen for future use allowing the breeding career for a valuable stallion to be extended beyond his natural life.



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