



Equine Artificial Breeding



TVC offers:

***Semen collection and
assessment.***

Semen freezing.

***Mare fertility
examination.***

Uterine biopsy.

Ultrasound.

Hysteroscopy.

Artificial insemination

Twin management.

***Evaluation of Fetal
Health***

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SPECIALIST EQUINE SERVICE

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Artificial insemination (AI) is a useful tool allowing mares to be bred without the stress of transport, access to superior genetics and potentially Stallions overseas. Here in North Queensland chilled transported and frozen semen AI is particularly useful given the great distances and difference in environment mares must endure if bred "down south". With AI becoming more and more popular Townsville Veterinary Clinic has opened a breeding centre, "Raintree Park", specifically to provide high quality artificial breeding services to North Queensland.

Depending on semen availability and the individual mare, AI can be used in a number of ways. It allows us to breed a number of mares with one ejaculate of fresh semen, inseminate mares with transported/chilled semen, or more complex procedures using frozen semen and inseminating extremely low sperm numbers via the fiberoptic endoscope. Most commonly AI allows us to breed a local mare to a stallion in another state or potentially overseas. In some cases AI can be part of a treatment regime aimed to minimize contamination and inflammation in the reproductive tract of a mare with fertility problems.

"Raintree Park" gives us the opportunity to expand our services to Stallion owners with the introduction of semen freezing. "Freezability" or the ability of sperm to survive freezing and thawing varies from stallion to stallion. For those with good freezing characteristics there are a number of advantages. Transporting and storing frozen straws is simpler, safer and less costly than transporting horses. The stallion can be used for breeding while working, and it can be a stallion "insurance policy" with straws stored indefinitely in case of death or loss of fertility.

Collecting and processing stallion semen for freezing involves a number of steps to determine firstly if the stallion is a viable candidate for frozen semen and secondly the optimal combination of collection frequency, extender and freezing protocol. Once the stallions semen quality, sperm output and survival in various extenders has been assessed a test freeze is carried out. It is only after freezing, thawing and assessing semen post thaw that a reasonable estimate of a stallions performance with frozen semen can be made. The ultimate test, of course, is breeding a number of mares with the frozen semen and recording the resulting pregnancy rates per cycle.

If you have any questions regarding artificial breeding or Equine reproduction in general please feel free to contact Dr Ben Ledez At Townsville Veterinary Clinic.