

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION



Artificial insemination (AI) is being used more and more in equine breeding programmes, particularly for sports horses. AI has benefits over natural coverings, which include not having to travel mares long distances to stud, avoiding injury to mares at covering and being able to use foreign stallions due to the ability to freeze and transport semen. It is important to appreciate that AI is not however always a cheaper option.

When selecting your stallion, make sure to choose a stud that is used to collecting and storing semen. The handling and conditions under which the semen is collected, chilled and transported are crucial to the sperm survival. Also ensure that the chosen stallion is of a high health status, and in particular has tested negative for EVA (Equine Viral Arthritis)

We provide a comprehensive AI package at the clinic. This includes a thorough pre-breeding examination, which involves an initial ultrasound examination of the mare's reproductive tract, an endometrial swab and a chance to discuss the whole AI process.

Once the mare is in season, it is best that she comes to the clinic for a few days. This allows us to examine her ovaries by ultrasound on a regular basis to assess when ovulation will occur, and so optimise the timing of the insemination. After insemination the mare will be scanned again to ensure she has ovulated, and to check for any uterine fluid following AI. She is then scanned again at day 16 and 25 to confirm pregnancy and development.