

Breeding Requirements

When we approve your bitch for a breeding, we want her to get pregnant and have wonderful puppies! The following requirements are in place to ensure the health and safety of our stud dog, as well as that of your bitch, and to help in an effort to make sure that your bitch gets pregnant. The key to a large healthy litter is breeding a healthy bitch, at the right time via serum progesterone testing.

Paperwork: Fax or send, PRIOR TO BREEDING:

- Copy of registration certificate & pedigree
- Copy of hip certification & elbow certification
- Copies of all lab tests required, provided by your veterinarian.

Here is what you need to do:

First day of season (We keep careful records of our own bitches' heat cycles. We test our own girls prior to the start of a heat, so we have time to treat for anything that comes up, and to retest after antibiotics.) -

Cervical culture and sensitivity. This sample must be obtained using a guarded culture swab such as the Tieglan swab, and from the cervical area, not lower vaginal area. It takes 4 to 7 days to get final results. NO bitch will be bred naturally without a C & S, and results must be negative or she must be on appropriate antibiotics for 7 days prior to breeding. No bitch with highly resistant or pathogenic bacteria (like Pseudomonas) will be bred naturally (even if she is on the appropriate antibiotics for 7 days). She will be artificially inseminated surgically at her owner's expense. We prefer not to breed naturally unless your bitch has tested negative, or has been Retested negative AFTER antibiotics. This takes time.

Also get a **Canine Brucellosis** screening. Some screenings are positive due to cross reactivity and must have more extensive testing, usually from Cornell. THIS TAKES TIME. NO bitch will be bred without a negative Brucella.

Progesterone timing is required for all bitches bred. It ensures that the bitch is having a normal heat cycle and has ovulated. A progesterone series tells us precisely when to inseminate her. We strongly recommend that you do the majority of the timing tests at your veterinarian, to ensure that you are shipping or driving in with a fertile bitch. However, we can arrange timing at Slade Veterinary Clinic or Townsend Veterinary Clinic. An account can be set up for you and linked to your credit card for direct payment to the clinic.

Progesterone Timing Chart—Start testing about day 5 to 7 of season.

- Below 1.0 ng/ml--no ovarian activity—test every 3 or 4 days
- 1.0 to 2.0 ng/ml—rise indicates active ovary—test in 2 to 3 days
- 2.0 to 4.9 ng/ml—active ovary—test every 24 hours until you determine

5.0 ng/ml Ovulation

- 5 to 6 ng/ml—breed in 2 to 3 days
- 6 to 11 ng/ml—breed in 1 to 2 days

11 to 19 ng/ml - breed today

Over 19—breed immediately if vaginal smear is OK and bitch is still receptive (is considered LATE—hope for the best)

Progesterone timing in areas where results take days to return are not feasible. Results must be returned within 24 hours (except Sundays) to time the breeding. The Idexx Veterinary Reference Labs give excellent service using The Idexx Direct Courier Service via FedEx no matter where you are located. Results are faxed and can be accessed online. Have your vet call 1-800-551-0998 Ext 8327 for info. You can also use this service for the cultures. **Fresh-chilled semen is an option. The progesterone timing is critical for successful use of fresh chilled (or frozen) semen. Call for information.**

VERY IMPORTANT FOR NATURAL BREEDING !

There are increased problems in Europe and the Americas with sterility, aborted and small litters as well as fading puppies due to Herpesvirus as well as Mycoplasma, Brucella, Chlamydia and some nasty resistant Staphs & Streps. The problem is affecting all breeds to the extent that Merial has a vaccine for Herpesvirus available in Europe only. **AS SOON AS YOUR FEMALE COMES IN SEASON (AS SOON AS YOU SEE BLOOD), SEND BLOOD SERUM AND VAGINAL SWABS TO HEALTHGENE.** This Canadian Diagnostic and Research Center has a test called CP16—Canine Lost Pregnancy Profile, which tests for the presence of these problems via PCR—looking for the actual DNA of the "bugs". If present, the affected females will **only** be bred by Artificial Insemination—vaginal, transcervical or surgical.

A copy of the lab results from HealthGene showing 100% negative blood and vaginal swab tests is REQUIRED prior to a natural vaginal breeding. **NO EXCEPTIONS. This does not apply to chilled semen transfers.**

Your veterinarian must submit the samples. Contact toll free 1-877-371-1551 or online at <http://www.healthgene.com> fax 416-658-2042 for information on submitting chilled samples via FedEx—must arrive next day. No import fees are due—mark FedEx label "Canine Samples for DNA testing". Test results will be faxed to your vet within 3 days of arrival at the lab. All samples must arrive chilled—shipped with ice packs. Not frozen.

NOTE: This testing is **in addition** to the cervical culture and Sensitivity done the 1st or 2nd day of your females season. This is for detection and treatment of other bacteria.