

Reproduction Services for Horses

UTCVM THERIOGENOLOGY

Our Equine Theriogenology Service is dedicated to providing unsurpassed reproductive care and management. The service offers a variety of reproductive services using advanced therapies and diagnostic tools.

In order to better meet your individual needs, we have created several breeding-related packages:

Mare Services:

Initial Breeding Soundness Examination Package:

Recommended for older mares, or any mare with a history of pregnancy loss, failure to conceive, etc. This package includes an office visit, ultrasound examination, vaginal examination, and visual external genitalia exam.

Based on these results, as well as the history/age of the mare, additional diagnostics such as uterine cytology, culture, and/or biopsy may be recommended. These are not included in the package and are at additional cost.

Breeding Package:

Chilled Semen or Frozen Semen

Recommended for mares determined to be sound breeders. Includes all of the office visits, ultrasounds, and artificial inseminations during the current breeding season, as well as pregnancy examinations at days 16, 30 to 45, and 60 of gestation. Fetal sexing, if possible, is also included. Any examinations after 60 days of gestation are at additional cost.

Stallion Services:

Collection Training:

Stallions that have never been collected before should be trained to collect either from a tease mare or phantom. These training sessions are important for the safety of the stallion, the mare, and the handler.

Stallion Breeding Soundness Exam Package:

Ideal for setting up a breed registry (stud book). It includes a physical exam, ultrasound of testes, and two semen collections one hour apart in order to determine daily sperm output. Semen evaluation at the fresh stage as well as in 2-3 extenders is also included. If a problem is detected, other diagnostic tools, such as rectal palpation, may be recommended for an additional charge.

Collection and Shipping Package:

Includes collection, evaluation, extending, and a styrofoam shipping container. The client typically picks up the shipping package from the Veterinary Medical Center, but it can also be sent overnight for an additional charge.

If you would prefer shipping in an Equitainer, we require a deposit which will be reimbursed when the Equitainer is returned to us.

Call us with questions, or to schedule an appointment!

865-974-8387

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Where do I go for reproductive services?

The Theriogenology Service works out of the Veterinary Research and Education Center (VREC), commonly referred to as the “Cherokee Facility/Farm”. Please contact the front desk for a map or directions. Unfortunately there is not a GPS address for this facility. On Google Maps, you may search for “UT Reproduction Facility/VREC” for additional directions.

Can I have field service perform reproductive services at my stable/barn?

Yes, depending upon your needs. Please note that a trip fee is not included in the breeding packages and therefore will be additional cost. Call the front desk to schedule an appointment.

What if my mare fails her breeding soundness exam?

If a mare is deemed unlikely to be able to carry her foal, we often recommend embryo transfer. We do perform limited embryo transfer services in conjunction with other hospitals.

For the breeding packages, why does the frozen package cost so much more than the chilled package?

Even in stallions that freeze well, sperm viability is much shorter in duration when frozen compared to chilled. Because of this, insemination must occur as close to ovulation as possible. This means that the mares are checked much more frequently when being bred to frozen semen. The extra cost reflects the extra time and equipment usage needed to ensure insemination occurs at the ideal time.

What happens if my mare doesn't get pregnant at the first insemination?

Our breeding packages cover costs for the current breeding season, so any subsequent office calls, ultrasounds, and breedings are included for the same calendar year. Board and drugs are still at additional cost.

What are the risks of rectal palpation (in both mares and stallions)?

Although rare, rectal palpation can lead to rectal tearing. Depending on the severity, this condition can be life threatening in the horse. In order to minimize risks, we utilize sedation and rectal tone relaxers as needed.

When are fees due?

We require same day payment for all services rendered if the mare is not staying. If the mare will be boarding, a 50% deposit is required at time of admission. We accept check, credit card, or exact cash at the Cherokee facility.

My mare currently has a foal on side. Can the foal stay with her?

Absolutely. At the Cherokee facility, we charge \$5 a day for a foal boarding with her dam.

Where are the mares housed?

Typically breeding service mares are housed at the Cherokee Facility in stalls with an outdoor run. The facility is staffed from 8 am to 3pm daily (including weekends and holidays.) Often times during the breeding season workers are there later but it is not guaranteed. Therefore, if you would prefer your mare have 24-7 supervision, she may stay at the main hospital under the hospitalization stall rate.

Do you store frozen semen?

We do store frozen semen for that breeding season.

Where should I have the semen sent?

Please ship to:
UT College of Veterinary Medicine
Attn: Dr. Tulio Prado
2407 River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996

If having frozen semen shipped prior to your appointment, please let us know to expect it.