



Transcervical insemination (TCI) Client Information Sheet

What is TCI?

TCI involves the use of a special scope which is passed into the vagina up to the level of the cervix. A catheter is then passed through the cervix into the uterus, thus enabling the semen to be directly deposited into the uterus.

What types of semen may be used?

All types of semen (fresh, chilled and frozen) may be used. Poor quality frozen semen may still benefit from surgical insemination.

What timing is required for the insemination?

The timing and number of inseminations required will vary depending on many factors such as access to the stud dog, type of semen used and how the oestrus cycle is progressing in the bitch. Generally it is preferred to perform two inseminations 48 hours apart. The timing of these inseminations is best determined by taking serial progesterone tests to chart when ovulation is occurring. Please feel free to phone one of our veterinarians and discuss what regime is most appropriate for your dog.

Will it hurt the bitch and are there any requirements after the procedure?

The scope is extremely thin (4mm diameter) and most dogs tolerate the procedure well. When the insemination occurs, the bitch is in standing heat and will flag similar to when a natural mating occurs. In rare cases, some mild sedation may be required for bitches that are particularly anxious or aggressive. Due to the fact that the semen has been deposited within the uterus, there will be no problem with the semen leaking. We recommend crating your dog for a few hours after the procedure and avoiding any vigorous exercise throughout the oestrus period.

What costs are involved in the procedure?

The costs of the procedure will vary depending on what type of semen is used, how many inseminations are performed and how many progesterone tests are performed to time the cycle. We realise that many of our clients travel a great distance to come to Bowral Veterinary Hospital for their reproduction services and offer a discounted package including up to five progesterone tests and five days boarding. This means you can leave the dog at the clinic and return once the procedures have been performed. Single or double inseminations without the package are also available. Please feel free to call the clinic and discuss the specific costs that will apply to your dog.

What are the advantages of using TCI?

By performing TCI, maximal numbers of sperm will remain alive for prolonged periods within the uterus compared to when the semen is deposited in the vagina. One of the main advantages of this technique compared to surgical insemination is not requiring a general anaesthetic to perform the procedure. Due to this fact, bitches may be inseminated on multiple occasions, thus extending the period when viable sperm will be present with fertile eggs. This will maximize with fertility in your dog resulting in increased chances of your bitch falling pregnant.