

DEATH - IS IT REALLY THE FINAL FRONTIER??

Successful collection, freezing, and storage of canine sperm cells after dogs have died.

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As sad and devastating as it is to have your trusted companion die from injury or disease, there still may be a very good chance to preserve your dog's genes for later artificial insemination and production of future offspring if you act quickly.

As part of our program at International Canine Semen Bank (ICSB), we have developed successful procedures and a solution, from research we performed and developed in the late 1970's, for collecting sperm cells from the testicular epididymis of dead or neutered dogs.

We have harvested, frozen and stored live sperm cells from dogs that have been dead for over 30 hours. Upon thawing these frozen cells, we normally see 40 to 80 percent motility and, when used for insemination, we have produced litters of as many as 10 live, healthy puppies from just one insemination.

Many dog breeders are unaware that there is the possibility of preserving a dog's sperm cells after death or neuter. However, we were the first company to provide this service to dog breeders since the late 1970's and have produced over 50 litters from the use of sperm cells harvested and frozen in this manner.

The general protocol we use to obtain and process the sperm cells is to have the testes shipped to our laboratory within 18 hours after death, if possible. Please do not freeze the body prior to removal of the testes, however, the body should be allowed to cool for at least one hour before removing the testes. We have a small kit for shipping the testes to us. This is our “Epi-Kit” and can be ordered from us (\$25, plus shipping). This kit can be kept on hand and the cold pack kept in your freezer until needed. The testes can be either removed from the scrotum, or the entire scrotum and testes can be removed and shipped to us. This should be placed in the zip-lock bag and shipped to us overnight in the Epi-Kit as directed. In an emergency, a small Styrofoam box and a frozen or refrigerated cold pack can be used to ship to us. It is very important to call our office at (503) 663-7031 to let us know the package is being shipped so we can be ready when the kit arrives.

Once we collect the sperm cells from the epididymis; the cells are observed microscopically before processing, to ascertain the quality and quantity of spermatozoa. When we have determined that the specimen has the potential to survive the freezing process, we continue our protocol to freeze the sperm cells in pellet form. After freezing, we then determine the success of the freeze by thawing one of usually 70 to 80 pellets. After this step, we calculate the number of live, motile, normal sperm cells that recover from the freeze. We then package the pellets in individual insemination doses, or vials, based on our research from work we performed in the 1970’s and 1980’s that led to our being able to determine the minimum number of live, motile, normal sperm cells necessary to produce successful pregnancy.

The cost for us to perform the initial harvesting procedure is \$125.00 minimum, even if we are not able to successfully freeze the cells. If sperm cells are harvested, frozen and stored at our facility, we give you a \$50 dollar discount on the Harvest procedure. The discount then brings your costs down to \$75 for harvesting, plus our standard freezing fee, which is \$295.00 for up to 4 vials stored. If we store more than 4 vials, each vial over the first 4 is \$50.00 additional as directed by the dog owner.

The dog owner would need to enclose payment by check, credit card number, (with expiration date and cardholder name), registered name of the dog, registration number and breed of the dog

as well as the name, address and phone number of the responsible dog owner(s) with the shipment. Once we have processed the specimen, we will notify the dog owner(s) of the results. For more information, please contact us at (503) 663-7031, or e-mail at: ik9sb@aol.com.

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International Canine Semen Bank (ICSB) was founded by Professor Carrol C. Platz, Jr. ICSB's program is based on techniques developed by Professor Platz.

Through Professor Platz's 35 years of research at the University of Oregon Medical School, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas A&M University and continuing in the ICSB laboratory, we have produced thousands of puppies using fresh frozen canine semen. ICSB and associates were first in producing litters registered by the AKC, The American Field Dog Association and the National Greyhound Association, and assisted in developing the guidelines used by these organizations for registering litters produced from frozen semen. We have produced litters from frozen semen that had been stored for 34 years prior to thawing and insemination at ICSB.

Under Professor Platz's direction, this research continues and provides the dog breeder with the most successful program available using fresh, fresh chilled and frozen canine semen and artificial insemination using non-surgical and surgical procedures.