



Steps for Freezing Semen:

- Collect gel-free ejaculate
- Evaluate motility and morphology
- Dilute with an extender and centrifuge
- Estimate concentration
- Dilute and fill straws
- Initial freeze in nitrogen vapor
- Rapid freezing in liquid nitrogen

Sport Horse Breeding News

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Foal Heat Breeding Pros & Cons

In no other species is re-breeding nine days after giving birth considered a good practice. The foal heat is a cleansing cycle, nature’s way of allowing the mare’s uterus to clear inflammation and bacteria and reduce to normal size (involute). Delayed involution can result in



dystocia, abortion, placentitis and retention of the placenta in the next pregnancy. Only 5-10% of mares are bred on foal heat. The conception rate of foal heat breeding ranges from 20-50%, averaging around 35%. The conception rate of reproductively sound mares bred on other cycles is from 70-80%. Foal heat conceptions have a higher rate of early embryonic death than other cycles, and later

abortions are more likely to result. More important than the conception rate of foal heat breeding, is the live foal rate, which statistics show is less than 50%. Given these statistics it’s easy to see that foal heat breeding requires

intense management to be successful. According to Dr. Jim and Lynda McCall, before breeding on foal heat, a mare should meet these criteria: 1) have a normal presentation at birth, without excessive difficulty, 2) the placenta must not weigh over 14 pounds, unless the foal weighed over 120 pounds, 3) the mare must expel the afterbirth within three hours after foaling, 4) by nine days post-foaling

there should be no discolored discharge coming from the vulva, and, 5) the foal must be strong and healthy and have nursed vigorously for nine days, stimulating oxytocin, and thus the uterine contractions which help the mare’s uterus involute. The McCalls point out that foal heat breeding results in a higher rate of abortion, and that the longer a mare carries a pregnancy before aborting, the greater the chance she will not carry a foal the following year. There is also a correlation between the length of the aborted pregnancy and the length of time before a mare returns to estrus. Added risk to young foals subjected to the stress of the early re-breeding of their dams should also be a consideration. Before breeding on foal heat a mare should be thoroughly (cont. pg2)

Breeding Older Maiden Mares

Breeding older maiden mares is less likely to result in a pregnancy. Mares that have been in hard competition for years can especially difficult to get in foal. The main reason for the difficulty with an older maiden is the failure of

the cervix of older mares to relax sufficiently to allow the fluid which is a byproduct of breeding to escape. All breeding methods produce an inflammatory response in the uterus, making it important that the cervix is relaxed enough to allow

the fluid to be cleared. According to Pete Sheerin, DVM, Dipl. ACT, “If the cervix does not relax properly to allow the fluid to escape, the inflammation increases (as does fluid production and accumulation), and a vicious cycle begins.”

Around the Stud Farms

Deckstation Enterbrook

In 2007 SES will add the fine stallions of Deckstation Enterbrook, of Enter, Netherlands, to the stallion roster. International jumping superstar Lucky Boy will head their lineup. Lucky Boy is a son of Hap Hanson's famous mare, Adith. Daredevil will also be offered, as will Don Laurie's Hit.



Lucky Boy

Gerd Sosath

Gerd Sosath's Holsteiner stallion, Chalan, won the title "Most Promising Young Stallion" in a three-

round International Stallion Competition at M/A level, on 3/19/06 in Zwolle, Germany. The young Chambertin son showed a lot of power and energy and did not have any trouble with the fences. Another Sosath-owned and ridden Holsteiner stallion, Quality, also showed very well at the event. Still another Sosath Holsteiner stallion, Catoki, was also on his game and placed third in the "Best Stallion" competition, which included a Grand Prix at 1.40/1.50 meters, where he took fourth prize.



Quality

Foal Heat, cont.

examined by a veterinarian. First and foremost, the mare should be in good overall physical condition. An ultrasound and manual palpation will determine the condition of the uterus and the amount of inflammation present. The ultrasound will also determine the condition of the mares ovaries. A vaginal exam is needed to assess the condition of the cervix and the birth canal. A biopsy should also be performed.

Given all the excellent reasons for not breeding on foal heat, there are some reasons *for* breeding on foal heat: 1) the foal heat is one of the most predictable of estrus cycles, 2) the risk of missing a mare that foals early and goes into anestrus is reduced, 3) the length of standing heat is shorter during foal heat, reducing work for the stallion, 4) an earlier foaling date for the next year is possible.

Considering the added expense of

breeding on foal heat, the reduced conception and live foal rates and the added risk to the mare's current foal, breeding a mare on foal heat is a practice which requires a breeder's thoughtful consideration



Inflammation and Pregnancy Rates

According to Thomas Riddle, DVM, in *The Horse*, the practice of culturing mares to determine the presence of bacteria may be less important than determining the degree of uterine inflammation. Inflammation appears to be a more significant factor to reduced pregnancy rates. According to Dr. Riddle, "the degree of inflammation is more im-

portant to look at rather than just its presence." He explained, "A positive endometrial cytology (indicating inflammation of the uterus) is a better predictor of reduced fertility than uterine cultures (indicating bacteria were present) alone." Riddle pointed out that 1.8 times as many problem mares were identified by cytology (microscopic

examination of uterine cell types) than by uterine culture. "... mares with uterine inflammation can be identified more quickly than by uterine culture because samples can be processed and interpreted the same day" and mares "can have additional diagnostics performed before breeding to determine the source of the inflammation."

Stallion Spotlight ~ Don Frederico

Don Frederico (Han) is one of the best stallion sons of the legendary Donnerhall at stud today. He burst onto the scene with an outstanding performance test in 2000, placing second overall with 141.04, and winning the dressage portion with an outstanding 151.67 points. But, the true measure of his worth has come as a sire. In 2005 the German Equestrian Federation's Breeding Value index rated Don Frederico second out of 2738 evaluated sport horse stallions. His breeding value as a sire of dressage horses is 178 points, with an assurance of 89%, placing him in very elite company. Don Frederico's sire, Donnerhall, is the progenitor of the D-line in modern sport horse breeding. Donner-

hall won team gold and individual bronze at the 1994 World Equestrian Games. At the 1997 World Equestrian Games in Rome, he won team gold and placed fourth. Donnerhall was a spectacularly successful stallion before passing away in 2002. Don Frederico is a big-framed stallion of excellent riding horse type, possessed of excellent mental qualities and resultant high rideability. He is currently a performer in the Celle Dressage Quadrille, where he thrills audiences worldwide with his outstanding uphill paces. Don



Don Frederico

Frederico's offspring have done very well at auction, commanding high prices. They are equally valuable as riding horses and as breeding animals. He has 11 approved sons and 34 State Premium mares. His daughters have a breeding value of 151, based on their mare performance tests. Don Frederico has excellent quality frozen semen, and throws a high percentage of black color.

SES Sires with Offspring in the News

Contendro (Contender/Reichsgraf) sired the highest-priced horse at the Hanoverian Verband's esteemed Spring Auction, in Verden, Germany on 4/8/06. His son, Codex One, was knocked down for 170,000 Euros, and was the highest priced dressage horse. Contendro sires horses of a modern, elegant type with especially nice necks and beautiful heads, and has excellent quality frozen semen.



Contendro

high prices.

Current World Champion dressage horse, Keltic Salinero, ridden by Anky van Grunsven, is also by a sire offered by SES. **Salieri** (Salvano/Servus), has a strong performance pedigree, but is also making an impact on dressage breeding. Salinero scored 87.92, the highest score ever received in an international Grand Prix freestyle.

Wild One and Arlene Page earned a trip to the FEI World Cup Final, by winning the USEF Freestyle Championship and the World Cup U.S. League Final, Wellington, FL, 3/17-18. **Wanderer** (Wagner/Glander) is the sire of this consistent performer.

Scott Stewart's regular working hunter, Beyond, became circuit champion of the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL, 1/25-

4/1/06, with five championships. Beyond is sired by Hanoverian Stallion of the Year, **Graf Grannus** (Grannus/Goldlowe), a popular sire of showjumpers who is also siring top hunters.

The 2005 German Foal Championships were dominated by SES-offered sires. The top four colts were by, respectively, **Laurentio**, **Sir Donnerhall**, **Londonderry** and **Stedinger**. The first place filly was by **Sir Donnerhall**, and the third and fifth place fillies were sired by Sir Donnerhall's sire, **Sandro Hit**.



Stedinger filly

Stedinger (Sandro Hit/Landadel) sired the high-selling foal at the Verden venue. The foal is out of a dam by another SES-offered stallion, **Rubinstein I**, and was obtained for 26,000 Euros. Stedinger seems cut from the same cloth as his exemplary sire, **Sandro Hit**. Stedinger's offspring excel as high quality riding horses; his foals compete well in-hand and command

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SES SERVICES

COMING SOON—SES gets a facelift.

"Sport Horse Breeding News"—The April 2006 edition of the "Sport Horse Breeding News" is now available on the website as a pdf download. Archive of SHBN back issues.

North American Stallions on SES Roster. Two new options give your stallion visibility on the world's most-visited frozen semen website. 1) A direct link to the stallion's page on your website, via the new North American Stallion Roster (available to all stallions offering frozen semen), or, 2) A page on the SES website, on the same roster with the European stallions, by breed, with a link on the page to your website (available to breeding-approved stallions with frozen semen). An exclusive option, with SES handling sales, and shipping, is also available. Call 307-587-5105 for details.

Free Display Ads for all SES clients. Take advantage of free display advertising on the most-visited frozen semen website in the world. Others pay \$20 for a six-month listing.

Foal Gallery—Please send photos of your foals.

Link Your Farm—SES clients receive a FREE link to their website on the SES links page. SES receives well over 1000 unique hits per day. Increase traffic to your site by linking today.

In-Stock Semen—In-stock semen available for immediate delivery for the remainder of the 2006 breeding season. See Stallion Roster.

BEST OF BREEDING LUCK THIS SEASON!

Organization Notes & News

DANISH WARBLOOD

Elite stallion Michellino by **Michelangelo**/Ulft was named 2005 Danish Warmblood Stallion of the Year, at the Danish Warmblood Stallion Licensing in Herning, Denmark. The Champion three year old Dressage colt at the same venue was Schufro Hit by **Sandro Hit**/Don Schufro.

NRPS

Ferrero was the Champion of the 2006 Nederlands Rijpaarden en Pony Stamboek Stallion Licensing. The four year old son of **Olympic Ferro**/Darwin impressed with his especially nice trot.

SWEDISH WARBLOOD

A son of **Rotspan/Laurie's Crusador** was the winner of the 2006 Stallion Performance Test, held at

Flyinge State Stud in Sweden. The best four year old at the test, Roosevelt impressed the judges with his perfect "10's" for his walk and rideability. Placing second at the test was Santana, by **Sandro Hit/Rubinstein I**, who scored 10 and 9 under his guest judge riders.

ATA

Mares register with the Jockey Club, the Arabian Horse Registry of America or Canada, a recognized Shagya registry or the International Arabian Horse Registry (which includes Anglo-Arabs) are eligible for inspection by the American Trakehner Association. The inspection fee is \$200.

Recommended Reads & Websites

Trakehner enthusiast! Check out these two great websites:

Russian Trakehner is chock full of interesting information, historic photos and articles, a database of over 26,000 horses, show results, stallion catalogs, and horses for sale. A very informative site. The site owners are eager to interact with North Americans.

www.rustrakehner.ru/english/index.htm

Trakehners International is another terrific website, founded by a transplanted German and her partner. It contains good historical information and photos, a chat forum, a list of horses for sale and other breeder services.