

# SEADOWN

VETERINARY GROUP

Tel. Hythe (023) 8084 2237



## Reproductive Services

Our reproductive services encompass all aspects of stud medicine from the time when you make your initial decision to breed from your mare through to after the foal has been born.

### **Pre-breeding assessments**

Prior to breeding from your mare it is advisable to have a pre-breeding assessment performed. We recommend that your mare has a clinical and ultrasonographic assessment of the reproductive tract (vulva, cervix, uterus and ovaries), prior to breeding. This identifies potential problems, confirms the mare has a normal oestrus cycle, and at which stage of the cycle she is in.

At this stage we also recommend and, it is often a stud requirement, that swabs are taken for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), and a blood sample for Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA).

A uterine swab, taken when the mare is in season, will help to identify any potential uterine infection which may preclude pregnancy.



### **Artificial Insemination (AI)**

A.I. is a common procedure in non-thoroughbred breeding. It has several advantages, such as increasing stallion choice, a reduction in the risk of injury to the mare, stallion and handlers, and an improvement in conception rates in mares susceptible to uterine infections.

At Seadown, A.I. is performed with chilled or frozen semen using the deep uterine insemination (DUI) technique. Using a long, flexible, atraumatic catheter, semen is deposited right at the entrance of the oviduct, at the uterine horn tip. This technique has improved conception rates, especially in mares that have failed to conceive previously due to fluid retention in the uterus, or if the semen used has low numbers of sperm in it.

Due to the high veterinary input required to ensure that insemination is synchronized with the mare ovulating, we recommend that the mare is admitted to the clinic at the start of her oestrus period.



An all inclusive package is available for A.I. This includes:

- Up to 5 days stabling and livery
- The pre breeding assessment examination
- Uterine (endometrial )swabbing and in-house laboratory fees
- Sequential examinations / ultrasound scans to monitor follicle development.
- 'Holding injection'
- Insemination of the mare
- Assessment of semen quality
- Post ovulation scan

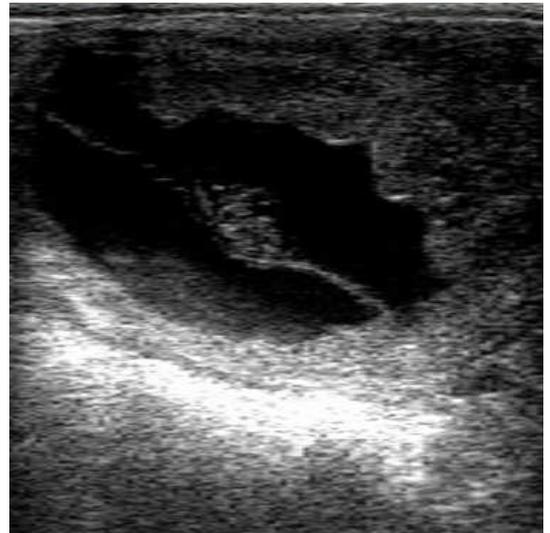
Not included in the package

- CEM swabs / EVA blood sample
- Treatment to bring the mare into season should this be required
- Treatment for any uterine infection should this be detected
- Stabling and livery beyond 5 days.
- Cost of further insemination procedures, should the mare fail to conceive
- Pregnancy scans

Please contact the clinic to speak to one of our equine vets for further advice / information on A.I. for your mare.

### **Pregnancy diagnosis**

Early confirmation of pregnancy is achieved using ultrasound. Ideally we recommend two scans, the first at 14-16 days post ovulation. This allows the recognition of twin status and its management. A second scan at 28-30 days helps ensure normal development and that a heart beat is present.



### **Reduced Fertility in the mare**

Persistent failure to conceive can be investigated via ultrasound examination. These examinations are supported by the use of uterine swabs, smears and biopsies of the uterine lining. Endoscopic examination of the uterus is also possible.

### **Management of the pregnant mare**

We recommend that the mare receives a tetanus and influenza vaccination approximately 6 weeks prior to foaling, thus ensuring good protection of the foal via colostrum uptake. Equine Herpes vaccination is also recommended at 5, 7, and 9 months of pregnancy to reduce the risk of abortion.

For further advice on the management of the pregnant mare, please contact the clinic and ask to speak to one of the equine vets.

### **Post Foaling Checks**

Expulsion of the afterbirth should occur within 3-4 hours, and this should be checked to see if it is complete. The mare is also examined for vaginal/vulval tears and that she is producing adequate colostrum.

Antibody uptake is vital in the newborn foal. To ensure that the foal has received sufficient levels from the mare's colostrum, a blood sample can be taken at approx 24 hours of age to check IgG levels.



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