

# *Equine Health Solutions*

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## **Is Your Mare Ready for Breeding?**

### **Meeting Your Mare's Basic Needs**

To insure the successful breeding of your mare, it is important that her basic needs are met and she is in overall good health. The mare needs to be in a positive plane of nutrition; vaccinations for Sleeping Sickness, Tetanus, Rhinopneumonitis, Influenza, West Nile Virus and Rabies need to be kept current. To identify internal parasites problems, Semi-annual Quantitative Fecal counts are recommended for a horse specific de-worming schedule. And of course, good housekeeping is always recommended for every horse.

### **A Healthy Reproductive Tract**

Once the basic needs for the mare are met, the next step would be to assess the well being of the mare's uterus. The reproductive tract is considered in its prime when the mare is 10 years old or less. As a mare ages or the uterus is exposed to low grade non-symptomatic infections, the reproductive tract will deteriorate. To assess the breeding capability of the mare's reproductive tract, a uterine culture, uterine cytology, reproductive ultrasound and a vaginal/cervical exam is needed; a uterine biopsy will help assess inflammation and scarring. The important information obtained from these tests can provide the percentage or odds of getting the mare pregnant and carrying to full term.

### **She is Ready to Breed**

Once the mare's uterus has been assessed and any needed treatments performed to optimize the uterine environment, she is ready to begin the breeding process. This process can be with fresh semen (live cover), cooled shipped semen, or frozen semen. If cooled shipped semen or frozen semen is used, daily monitoring during the reproductive heat cycle is needed to inseminate the mare at the opportune time to obtain the pregnancy. Daily monitoring also allows for treatment of any problems if they should arise.

### **Equine Health Solutions is Your Solution**

At Equine Health Solutions, Dr. Wagner will discuss with you the age of your mare, her breeding history and any other requirements necessary to get your mare ready for the breeding process. The clinic has the capabilities to take your mare in, monitor her daily with ultrasound or rectal palpation, order the semen, inseminate her at the optimum time, confirm ovulation, and evaluate her uterine health post-breeding.

***“Providing Quality Solutions for the Health of Your Horse”***