

Therion Science Inc.

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Therion Equine Frozen Semen Services/Plante Veterinary Services

Equine Semen Freezing Services

Therion is an SBS Affiliate member. SBS is a leader and the largest provider in the world with over 30 years of unrivaled expertise. Each SBS affiliate lab utilizes state of the art equipment, standardized proprietary protocols, and maintains a quality control (QC) program unique to the industry.

Prior to Arrival

For North American collections:

- Your stallion can board at DeerPath (Rob Fera: Mobile: 519-831-5161; info@deerpathequine.com) for collection and training
- Make sure that you let DeerPath know when you are planning to bring your stallion. You will sign a boarding contract and pay the boarding fees directly to DeerPath.
- We require a serum titer for EVA on the first day of collection/cleanup, once a month and on the last day of collection for the year (~2x \$30). If first or last EVA titer is positive, then, PCR for EVA will be done on semen for from each freeze collection (\$57.30)

Clean Out Collections (\$280 + hst) to pay to DeerPath

Prior to beginning the freezing project the stallion must be cleaned out of all residual stored sperm. Aged sperm are often of lesser quality and do not respond as well to semen freezing. Depending on the individual stallion, this could be 2 to 5 clean-out collections, on average 3. Usually we collect Mon, Tue, Wed then give Thurs off and test freeze on Friday. You can also have the clean out collections performed at home prior to arrival at our facility.

Phantom Training

We try to maintain a positive and rewarding environment for the young stallion in the breeding shed, his handling at this time sets the foundation for his behavior as a breeding stallion in the future. We keep training sessions short; if the stallion does not mount and/or ejaculate on the first attempt, we will try again later in the day, always ensuring progress is positive. Phantom training w/o ejaculation (\$135/30min session). A successful training session would serve the dual purpose of a clean out collection also (\$280).

Test Freeze (\$900+hst)

Any stallion presented for the first time to our lab, an SBS lab or an SBS Affiliate Labs must undergo a "test freeze" procedure. This procedure is designed to determine not only if and how well your stallion's semen will survive freezing and thawing but also which of the various freezing protocols will produce the best results. Based upon the results of the test freeze we select the protocol for subsequent freezing that results in the best sperm motility after thawing. Each stallion is an individual and they differ in their preference for the basic four freezing protocols. Assuming he responds well to semen freezing we will then proceed with regular semen collection on a Mon-Wed-Fri or Mon-Fri schedule.

Each Additional Freeze (\$900+hst)

A post-thaw manual motility semen evaluation analysis is performed on each freeze. The test freeze and 2 straws of 25% of the additional freeze (1:4 freeze) will be sent to SBS-MD for quality controls. They will perform a post-thaw semen evaluation using computer assisted motility analysis and perform a bacterial culture. The average stallion produces 8 doses of semen per collection; however, this number can vary depending on the initial total sperm count. We recommend shipping two doses per cycle for each mare. Most stallion owners freezing semen for the first time will usually produce 50-60 doses, depending upon the stallion this can take 2-3 weeks.

What can a Stallion Owner Expect to Pay?

To help put the costs and results in perspective, we've created the following scenario:

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A stallion owner calls and wants to freeze enough semen for 12-15 mares. For stallions with unproven fertility using frozen semen, SBS recommends planning for about 5 doses per mare. The target then, is to collect a minimum of 60 doses of frozen semen. How long will it take and how much will it cost?

- Week 1: Cleanout Collections and test freeze
 - 3 cleanout collections = \$840 (3 x \$280)
 - Initial Test Freeze = \$900
 - EVA serum testing = \$30
- Week 2 & 3: The average stallion produces 8 doses of semen per collection. So it will take on average, seven more collections to obtain 56 doses = \$6300 (7x\$900) + EVA serum testing on the last day of collection (\$30)
- **Total Cost:**
 - Freezing cost: \$8,040 + hst
 - EVA serum testing: \$60 for 2 tests, additional cost, if seropositive
 - Boarding cost is additional

What is a Dose?

At Therion and any SBS Affiliate Labs the doses consist of eight 0.5ml straws. Each dose contains 800 million to 1 billion total sperm; however, the key consideration is the progressive motility. Each dose contains at least the industry recommended minimum of 200 million progressively motile sperm per dose. We recommend that only semen with a post-thaw progressive motility of 30% be used in a commercial distribution program.

Storage of Frozen Semen

We are often asked how long frozen semen remains viable. As long as the semen is properly maintained at the correct temperature in a liquid nitrogen storage tank, the working life of frozen semen is believed to be nearly unlimited. Frozen semen is stored in special cryogenic liquid containers maintained at -196°C.

Fees:

- 1-100 straws: \$10/month + hst
- 101-250: \$15/month + hst
- 251-500 straws: \$20/month + hst
- 501-1000 straws: \$25/month + hst
- 1001-2000 straws: \$35/month + hst

The Stallion Guide

The Stallion Guide is a free marketing tool for agents/owners of stallions with SBS frozen semen that is currently in storage with an SBS Affiliate Lab and meets SBS recommended minimum thresholds for commercial distribution. All our clients, if they desire, can take advantage of this marketing tool. They will be responsible for the information put on this website related to their stallion(s).

With thousands of visitors every month the Stallion Guide offers broad exposure to and international market and targeted advertising to breeders interested in using frozen semen.

For more information on frozen semen, please review the FAQs in the Select Breeders Library or blog: http://www.selctbreeders.com/s/library_faq

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<http://www.se;ectbreeders/com/blog>