

Stallion: \_\_\_\_\_

Straws per AI Dose: \_\_\_\_\_



Mare Management  
Instructions

Help Line (410) 885-3202



www.selectbreeders.com

## Instructions for Handling & Thawing Frozen Semen

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[www.selectbreeders.com](http://www.selectbreeders.com)

### Thawing semen packaged in 4.0 or 5.0ml straws

#### Materials needed for semen thawing:

- 50°C constant temperature water bath (straw dimensions: length = 28 cm (11"))  
Note: A thick walled styrofoam box is okay to use.
- An accurate thermometer used to maintain the bath at 50°C
- Long handled tweezers or hemostats
- Sterile insemination supplies warmed to 37°C

1. Prepare the mare aseptically prior to opening the container.
2. Using a pre-cooled hemostat, or tweezers, (A) remove one straw from the nitrogen container & immediately place it into the 50°C water bath, being careful not to submerge the hemostats or tweezers into the water. It is important to make this transfer as quickly as possible, exposing the straw to room temperature for no more than 2 to 3 seconds (B).
3. Place the straw in the water bath for at **EXACTLY 45** seconds to ensure proper thawing.
4. Dry off the straw completely. Water leaking into the straw would be spermicidal.
5. Holding the straw vertically so that the air bubble is positioned on the top of the straw, cut off the round sealing ball.
6. Place the open end of the straw over a sterile, pre-warmed, 37°C container (a centrifuge tube or red top blood tube, either is suitable) and cut off the plug on the other end of the straw. Allow the semen to empty into the sterile container. Tap the end of the straw to ensure that all of the semen is removed.
7. We do not recommend adding extender to the semen.
8. Draw the thawed semen into a sterile pre-warmed insemination pipette using an all plastic syringe (C) and inseminate the mare just as you would with fresh semen. Use a 5 ml air dam behind the semen to ensure that all the semen is deposited in the mare's uterus (D, E).

A



Pre-cool the tweezers or hemostats and do not lift the canister above the frost line.

B

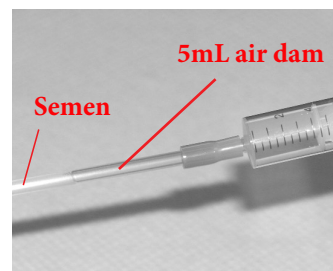


Pulling the canister above the neck of the tank will cause damage to the semen

C



D



E



Each insemination dose contains 600-1000 x 10<sup>6</sup> total sperm concentrated into the breeding dose. A minimum of 30% progressive motility is expected upon thawing. It is important to deposit the entire insemination dose into the uterus for optimum results.