

INTRODUCTION

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our Equine Reproduction Short Course. As breeders ourselves, we appreciate the difficulties that can be faced when trying to run a successful breeding operation. Just understanding the basics of reproduction can be a daunting proposition, let alone trying to stay abreast of the latest technology and advancements in the field.

If you are a veterinarian, we recognize that you have the unenviable task of being expected to know what is available not only in equine reproduction, but all other aspects of equine health and whatever other species of animals you treat. As a result of recognizing the difficulties involved with locating current, correct and practical information, we realized that there was a need for short courses, for not only veterinarians and reproduction specialists, but also for horse breeders.

If you are a breeder, we would like to encourage you to develop and cultivate a good working relationship with your veterinarian, which will be vital for your ongoing success. Much of the information contained in our short courses will enhance your equine reproduction knowledge, but it cannot replace your veterinarian.

As we spend the spring and summer practicing what is taught in the courses, we have the practical experience that we believe is important to teach you successfully. We also research ideas that we believe may be beneficial to the industry, as well as field test new products, and will only endorse those products which we have used and found to work well. We know the pitfalls, expenses and problems that are a part of breeding horses, and strive to present information that is current and cost-effective. We are both published authors in multiple national magazines and firmly believe that the sharing of information with others can only be beneficial.

Regulations defining the “practice of veterinary medicine” vary considerably from country to country, and Europe is considerably more restrictive than most of North America in what the lay person is permitted to do, even to their own animals. It is important therefore, that even though we may tell you of a technique, that you confirm the legalities of using it yourself if you are not a licensed veterinarian! We recommend that you obtain and closely review a copy of your own country’s regulations in order that you may ensure full compliance.

We wish to continue to offer these courses world-wide, and as you will appreciate, the organizational costs are significant. With that in mind, we would like to say that these course notes are copyrighted, but additional copies are available for sale to those who attend the short courses. If you wish to give them to a friend or an associate, we would ask that you purchase an extra set and not duplicate them.

The course notes have been adapted and “translated” from the American version into English(!). We hope that we have made all suitable changes to spelling and drug names/manufacturers, but caution you that there may still have been some changes that escaped the editor’s red pencil. Similarly, there is a possibility that referenced drugs or diseases may not be available or seen in the UK, although in the case of the former, you may be able to obtain a special import license, and the latter is less likely, although further peer review is recommended if it seems possible.

We are extremely grateful to the many persons that have provided us with graphics for use in the presentation, and are pleased to offer recognition to those people at the end of the presentation. Regrettably, as we do not own the copyright to these photos, we are unable to include them in the course notes.

Our website at www.equine-reproduction.com is the largest of its kind on the Internet and we are always happy to see you visit. We would also like to invite you to join the Yahoo email list on equine reproduction, EquineRepro@yahoogroups.com. It is co-moderated by us and is the largest email list of its kind in the world. It gives breeders, veterinarians and repro specialists the unique opportunity to share information in the field of equine reproduction. To subscribe to this list, just visit the subscription page on our website. We also offer a monthly e-mail newsletter containing industry news and information as well as updates on activities involving Equine-Reproduction.com that can also be subscribed to by visiting the web site.

We hope you enjoy the short course and if you find it beneficial and informative, please tell everyone that you know who may wish to attend a future course. If, however upon completion, you are not pleased with the information and material presented, please let us know how we can improve what we offer.

To make the course run a little more smoothly, we would like to request that you review and attend to the following items. We will mention this in the introduction, but in the unfortunate event that you have missed it, there are a few points that we would like to ensure that you are aware of. Your compliance with these matters is appreciated.

1. Please either turn your mobile phone to “mute”, or turn it off. In the event someone is using a mobile phone during the presentation, the presentation will be halted to assist you in completing your call. Other attendees however may not be so happy with that!

2. We will be covering a huge amount of information during the course. In order to achieve as much coverage as possible, there will be areas that are not covered in detail. Those areas will tend to be areas not in “daily use” in the field – a good example is that we cover mare hormones in detail, but stallion hormones very briefly. These notes do however carry more detailed review of all areas, so we hope that this will be sufficient for you.

3. You will probably have questions! In fact, we consider that if you do not have questions, we may be doing something wrong! As a result of the time constraints however, answering questions during the lecture portion can put us seriously behind schedule. We ask therefore that questions be asked during the breaks or during the wet lab portion only, when we will make ourselves available to answer questions.

4. We are not veterinarians; consequently, we are not legally permitted to answer specific questions about individual animals or cases, as that could be considered by some to be “practicing veterinary medicine without a license”. We are happy to answer questions with generalities, but please respect this precarious situation in which we find ourselves – we want to assist you, but also want to remain available to assist others!

Thank you for attending and we look forward to hearing of your breeding successes in the future!

Jos Mottershead

Kathy St.Martin

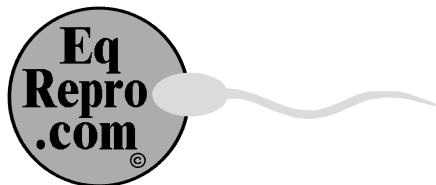
TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
COPYRIGHT, CONTACT AND EDITION INFORMATION	7
MARES	8
TERMINOLOGY.....	8
REPRODUCTIVE STRUCTURE	8
<i>Internal Reproductive Tract.....</i>	8
ENDOCRINOLOGY.....	11
<i>Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone (GnRH).....</i>	11
<i>Follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) and Luteinizing hormone (LH).....</i>	12
<i>Œstrogens.....</i>	12
<i>Progesterone.....</i>	12
<i>Prostaglandin.....</i>	12
<i>Inhibin.....</i>	13
<i>A Brief Sequential Overview of the Regular Œstrous Cycle</i>	13
TRANSITIONAL PHASE.....	13
<i>Manipulation of Transitional Phase</i>	13
BREEDING PREPARATION	16
<i>Mare History.....</i>	16
<i>Nutritional Status and Housing</i>	17
<i>External Reproductive Conformation.....</i>	17
<i>Clitoral Swab.....</i>	18
<i>Endometrial Swab, Cytology, Culture and Sensitivity.....</i>	18
<i>Endometrial Biopsy.....</i>	20
<i>Breeding to the EAV Positive Stallion</i>	22
<i>Breeding Soundness Examination – other</i>	23
MODIFICATION OF THE ŒSTROUS CYCLE USING HORMONES	23
<i>Induction of œstrus.....</i>	23
<i>Promotion of Ovulation</i>	26
<i>Ovarian Superstimulation (“Superovulation”)</i>	27
INDICATION OF ŒSTROUS STAGE.....	28
<i>External signs.....</i>	28
<i>Internal signs of œstrus.....</i>	28
<i>Determination of œstrus status</i>	29
BREEDING PROCESS	31
<i>Live Cover.....</i>	31
<i>Artificial Insemination</i>	32
<i>Multiple Pre-ovulatory Follicles Present – to breed or not?</i>	37
<i>“Foal heat” Breeding.....</i>	37
<i>Sex-selection Breeding.....</i>	38
BREEDING “PROBLEM” MARES.....	38
<i>Anœstrus.....</i>	39
<i>Chromosomal Abnormalities - “Intersex” Mares</i>	41
<i>Persistent Œstrus (Nymphomania).....</i>	42
<i>Delayed Uterine Clearance</i>	42
<i>Endometritis.....</i>	43
<i>Sexually Transmitted Organisms</i>	46
<i>Intra-uterine irritant lavage.....</i>	47
<i>Urovagina (“Urine Pooling”).....</i>	47
<i>Pneumouterus (“Windsucking”).....</i>	48

<i>Developmental Abnormalities</i>	48
<i>Ovarian Abnormalities</i>	48
<i>Uterine Abnormalities</i>	51
<i>Hormonal Issues</i>	52
<i>Endophyte-infected Fescue Toxicity</i>	53
<i>Selenium Deficiency</i>	53
<i>Stallion Incompatibility</i>	54
<i>Reduced Immune Response</i>	54
BREEDING MYTHS	54
EARLY PREGNANCY	57
<i>Sperm Storage, Capacitation and Fertilization</i>	58
<i>Endocrinology</i>	58
<i>Pregnancy Detection</i>	59
<i>Dealing with a Twin Pregnancy</i>	61
<i>Early Pregnancy Loss</i>	63
MID TO LATE PREGNANCY.....	65
<i>Nutrition</i>	65
<i>De-worming</i>	66
<i>Immunization</i>	66
<i>Abortion</i>	67
<i>Other Pre-Foaling Problems</i>	70
PARTURITION (FOALING).....	72
<i>Assorted Foaling Equipment</i>	72
<i>Signs of Impending Parturition</i>	73
<i>Endocrinological changes</i>	74
EUTOCIA (NORMAL FOALING)	74
<i>Stages of Eutocia</i>	75
<i>Immediate Care post-foaling</i>	75
INDUCTION OF PARTURITION	76
ABNORMAL FOALING.....	77
<i>Gestational Duration Description</i>	77
<i>Malpresentation (dystocia)</i>	79
<i>Premature Placental Separation</i>	80
<i>Recto-vaginal fistula</i>	81
<i>Foaling twins</i>	81
<i>Uterine inertia</i>	81
<i>Retained fetal membranes (placenta)</i>	81
<i>Uterine Artery Hemorrhage</i>	82
<i>Inversion of the Uterine Horn</i>	82
<i>Uterine Prolapse</i>	82
<i>Eversion of the urinary bladder</i>	83
<i>Other Apparent Abdominal Pain</i>	83
<i>Evidence of Post-Partum Depression</i>	83
<i>Post-Partum Constipation</i>	83
<i>Cervical Tears</i>	83
POST-FOALING.....	84
<i>Signs of a Healthy Foal</i>	84
<i>Subsequent Care</i>	84
<i>Colostrum</i>	84
<i>Passive Transfer</i>	86
<i>Failure of Passive Transfer</i>	86
NEONATE DANGER SIGNS	87
<i>Emergency Care</i>	87
<i>Immediate Attention Required</i>	89

	5
<i>Important but not emergency (initially)</i>	95
ORPHAN FOALS.....	96
<i>Mare Euthanasiation</i>	96
<i>Definition of “orphan”</i>	98
<i>Rejection causes and attempting to remedy</i>	98
<i>Immediate Needs/Care</i>	98
<i>Breed-specific Genetic Defects</i>	99
STALLIONS.....	104
REPRODUCTIVE STRUCTURE	104
<i>External and Palpable Reproductive Conformation</i>	104
<i>Internal Reproductive Tract</i>	106
<i>Endocrinology</i>	106
<i>Sperm Production</i>	108
MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING	109
<i>Keeping the Stallion Healthy and Happy</i>	109
<i>Normal vs. Artificial Breeding Behaviour</i>	111
<i>Single-trial avoidance learning</i>	112
<i>Factors affecting stallion libido</i>	112
<i>The Successful Stallion Handler</i>	113
<i>Restraint Methods</i>	114
PRE-BREEDING	115
<i>Age-related Issues</i>	115
<i>Pre-Breeding Season Examination</i>	116
<i>Pre-breeding Washing</i>	118
LIVE COVER BREEDING	118
<i>The Breeding Shed/Location Layout</i>	118
<i>Breeding Shed Crew</i>	119
<i>Live Cover Protocol</i>	119
<i>When Things Go Wrong</i>	120
<i>Pasture Breeding</i>	120
SEMEN COLLECTION - EQUIPMENT	121
<i>Design of the Breeding Mount (“Phantom” or “Dummy”)</i>	121
<i>Cooled Semen Shipping Containers</i>	122
<i>Artificial Vagina and Associated Equipment</i>	123
<i>AV Preparation and Care</i>	124
LAB EQUIPMENT	125
<i>Semen Extenders</i>	128
DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES OF SEMEN COLLECTION.....	130
<i>Using a Live Mare</i>	130
<i>Breeding Mount (“Phantom” or “Dummy”) Collection</i>	131
<i>Ground Collection</i>	133
<i>Chemical Ejaculation</i>	134
<i>Live Cover Using a Stallion Condom</i>	135
EJACULATE EVALUATION AND PROCESSING	135
<i>Handling of Semen</i>	135
<i>Initial Evaluation</i>	136
<i>Microscopic Evaluation</i>	136
<i>Intermediate Evaluation</i>	138
<i>Advanced Evaluation</i>	139
<i>Calculation of On-Farm Insemination or Shipping Dose</i>	139
<i>Packaging Cooled Semen</i>	143
<i>Frozen Semen</i>	143
DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM STALLION	148

<i>Poor Quality Semen</i>	148
<i>Low Libido</i>	150
“ <i>High</i> ” <i>Libido</i>	151
<i>Ejaculatory Dysfunction</i>	151
<i>Cryptorchidism</i>	152
<i>Testicular Degeneration</i>	152
DISEASES	153
<i>Bacterial</i>	153
<i>Viral</i>	154
<i>Protozoa</i>	155
<i>Squamous Cell Carcinoma</i>	155
<i>Habronemiasis (summer sores)</i>	155
INJURIES.....	155
OTHER PHYSICAL CONDITIONS	156
<i>Scrotal Hernias</i>	156
<i>Testicular Torsion</i>	156
<i>Effusions of the Vaginal Cavity</i>	156
ADVANCED BREEDING TECHNIQUES.....	158
EMBRYO TRANSFER	158
<i>Function and Advantages</i>	158
<i>Problems and Disadvantages</i>	158
<i>Process</i>	158
EQUINE GENOMICS	161
GENDER SELECTION.....	161
LOW SPERM DOSE INSEMINATION	162
OOCYTE FREEZING.....	162
INTRA-FALLOPIAN OOCYTE TRANSFER.....	162
GAMETE INTRA-FALLOPIAN TUBE TRANSFER (GIFT).....	162
INTRA-FOLLICULAR OOCYTE TRANSFER.....	163
INTRA-FOLLICULAR INSEMINATION	163
IN VITRO FERTILIZATION	163
INTRA-CYTOPLASMIC SPERM INJECTION (ICSI)	163
FREEZING EPIDIDYMAL SPERM	163
FREEZE DRIED SPERM.....	163
ANTIOXIDANTS IN SEMINAL PLASMA.....	163
NUCLEAR TRANSFER (NT).....	164
SOME FINAL OBSERVATIONS	165
APPENDICES	166
FOALING KIT	166
SEMEN COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS FORM	167
KENNEY COOLED SEMEN EXTENDER.....	168
COOLED TRANSPORTED SEMEN SHIPMENT REPORT.....	169
TEMPERATURE CONVERSION CHART	170
GLOSSARY.....	171
INDEX.....	180



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