INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE ICSB CANINE FRESH SEMEN SHIPPING KIT ("PUPPY-PAK") WITH PDV-06 MEDIA FORMULATION

ICSB has developed and tested a modified fresh chilled shipping media (PDV-06) which allows the fresh chilled semen to be divided into two or more specimens for two or more inseminations over several days. Our laboratory tests have shown that the PDV-06 can maintain very high percent motility and rapid forward speed of the sperm cells for up to 14 days in some dogs. Some advantages of this newly developed medium are greater protection and longevity for the sperm cells, the use of one ejaculate and one shipment for multiple inseminations to reduce the expenses of shipping a second ejaculate, if desired, and easy, straightforward procedures for the veterinarian and/or dog breeder. (NOTE: Sperm longevity will vary from dog to dog and longevity results may vary, depending on health, age, and genetics of the dog, etc. There is no guarantee as to the length of time the sperm cells will survive. As in all artificial inseminations, conception cannot be guaranteed.)

When you receive the kit, place ONE cold pack and the media in your freezer and ONE cold pack in the refrigerator. The media is packaged in a frozen state. It may have thawed in transit. This will not harm the media if it is immediately refrozen after it arrives. If you are ordering more than one kit, all media are usually in one kit. (NOTE: Rarely, the media tube(s) will leak in transit. The cellophane bag will catch the media if this does occur. Open the bag, remove and open the media tube, then pour the contents of the bag back into the tube, recap, and freeze.)

When you wish to ship fresh chilled canine semen:

1. Remove the frozen pack from your freezer and place in the bottom of the kit. Remove the second refrigerated cold pack and place on top of the frozen pack.

2. Place about 1/2 inch of folded paper packing over the two cold packs.

3. Thaw the media and warm to between 70 and 98 degrees Fahrenheit. This can be facilitated by placing the tube in a warm water bath or cup of warm water that is between room and body temperatures. Mix the tube of media well so it is evenly mixed. Gently add the collected semen from the stud dog. Evaluate prior to shipping. (NOTE: Remove approximately 0.3 ml of the mixed semen, place this in a test tube in the refrigerator and check the motility the next morning after mixing and placing a drop on a microscope slide for 1 to 2 minutes at body temperature. This can then be compared to the motility report after the shipment arrives at its destination.)

4. Place the screw cap on the tube and enclose it in the cellophane bag it came in. Fold the wire end of the bag several times over itself, then fold the wire ends across the bag. This provides a seal that will prevent leakage out of the bag in the event the tube might leak. Place in kit on top of the 1/2 inch of newspaper.

5. Place crumpled newspaper on top of the semen tube to hold the semen and cold packs in place.

6. Enclose the necessary paperwork, instructions, tape securely and ship.
PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING CANINE SEMEN FOR SHIPPING: The proper technique in collecting the semen from the stud dog is:

1. Use clean apparatus that is not contaminated with soap or other residues.

2. Collect the semen at room temperature (no lower than 65 degrees Fahrenheit).

Once the dog starts to ejaculate, the normal progression of events is for the ejaculate to first appear as a clear liquid, then turn to a milky white, then back to a clear fluid. If you are using the ICSB-OR collection kit, this will easily be seen in the collection tube.

3. Once the milky portion of the ejaculate is obtained and the clear third portion begins to appear, cease collecting from the dog.

4. Pour the semen into the screw cap tube containing the shipping media (which should be between 65 and 98 degrees Fahrenheit), place the screw cap back on the tube securely and package the semen as per the instructions.

5. Ship either United Parcel Service (preferred), or via Federal Express Priority One. We use UPS primarily because there seems to be better temperature control in their cargo hold.

6. Write on the kit "DO NOT FREEZE". The sperm cells should not be allowed to freeze.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF THE SHIPPED CANINE SEMEN

When the shipped semen arrives, it should be evaluated for motility prior to insemination. In some cases, the shipped semen can be divided for at least two inseminations, 24 to 48 hours apart, if desired. This is determined by microscopic evaluation for quantity and percent motility after the semen arrives for the insemination. If multiple inseminations are planned, it is recommended that a drop from the mixed specimen be evaluated each day to monitor motility. If it appears the sperm cell motility is dropping significantly, it may be best to inseminate that same day, rather than wait.

1. Remove the tube of semen from the small bag, mix gently and place the tube in a body- temperature water bath (No warmer than 98 degrees Fahrenheit) for 5 minutes.

2. Mix the semen gently by inverting the tube slowly 2-3 times.

3. Place a small drop of the semen on a body temperature (97 go 98 degree F.) microscope slide. Place a cover-slip on the specimen, let warm at body temperature for 30 seconds, then quickly transfer to a microscope and observe motility at 100X power. If the motility appears low, set the semen-media in a 90 degree F water bath and take a single drop to evaluate at 5 minute intervals, letting the slide warm to body temperature prior to each observation.

4. Mix the specimen gently again and draw the semen into your insemination equipment, being careful not to draw air up through the semen as you load.

5. Deposit the semen vaginally at the opening of the cervix. Elevate the bitch’s hindquarters for 5 to 10 minutes after insemination to allow the semen to pool at the cervix.

If you are using the ICSB artificial insemination kit, follow the instructions for depositing the semen at the cervical os. If you have any questions regarding the procedures, or wish to order any of the supplies, please feel free to write or call.