



STALLION SERVICES, Inc. breeding management

Neil and Robin DeRue 4009 G.P. Easterly Rd West Farmington, OH 44491
 330-889-2282 fax: 330-889-2283 stallionservices.com

We Reproduce Success !!

EMBRYO TRANSFER COST ESTIMATE 2010

Thank you very much for your inquiry about embryo transfer services. This is a general letter that will explain estimated costs and health requirements for bringing your mare. Our management services involve breeding your mare and flushing the embryo. Embryos are then shipped via airline to Robert Foss, DVM at Equine Medical Services, Columbia, Missouri. Besides technical skill, the success of embryo transfer (ET) is highly dependent on the number of recipient mares available to be in synchrony with each donor. Dr. Foss provides both the technical skill and a very large herd of recipient mares for a successful outcome. Should you decide to use ET as a tool in your breeding program, you must enter into a contract with Equine Medical prior to shipping them embryos. Equine Medical can be reached at 573.443.4414. Again please note that the services provided by Equine Medical are separate from the services provided by Stallion Services and Buckeye Veterinary Clinic. The costs enumerated below are for breeding and flushing embryos only.

BREEDING YOUR MARE. Our goal is to provide services in the most cost effective and timely manner possible. We feel that your mare is always better at home but while she is here we will treat her as though she belongs to us. Mares are turned out daily, weather permitting, and brought back into the barn in the evening. Mares are kept groomed and clipped and otherwise made to feel as comfortable as possible. Mares with foals and show mares are kept separate from other mares.

Open mares must have current vaccinations including EWT, Rabies and West Nile Virus plus a negative coggins. **Strangles is now required.** Deworming should be within 30 days prior to arrival. Please bring us a written statement, invoice or health paper from your vet to verify. **Please make sure that your mare's feet and teeth are in good order.** We maintain a teasing stallion and teasing is conducted daily. When your mare shows heat she will be palpated on her second day of estrus and every other day throughout her cycle. When an appropriate sized follicle is detected we will order semen and give an ovulatory agent to hasten ovulation.

APPROXIMATE COSTS PER CYCLE/ EMBRYO TRANSFER*:

Veterinary palpations (about 6 @ \$40.00 ea)	\$ 240.00
Farm calls – (minimum split to \$15.00 each)	\$ 100.00
Uterine culture and cytology \$85.00 ea	\$ 170.00
Mare management per cycle (includes inseminations)	\$ 275.00
Oxytocin to expel fluid post breeding if necessary– one time charge per cycle	\$ 20.00
Embryo flush	\$ 425.00
Courier and airline fee if embryo recovered	\$ 245.00
Prostaglandin injection (if necessary, brings mare into season)	\$ 15.00
Deslorelin injection (forces ovulation - given once per cycle)	\$ 40.00
Return semen shipper – will vary as to distance	\$ 35.00
Approximate total per cycle	\$ 1565.00

*This quote does not estimate board and is an approximation if your mares have **NORMAL** cycles. Be advised that this total is subject to change as mare's cycles can be unpredictable, especially in the spring since a mare can be slow to ovulate. For instance, there is the possibility we would have to order semen more than once to breed your mare. We do our best to keep costs within reason. Note about farm calls: Our veterinarian charges a \$55.00 farm call. Generally we split this call between clients. Since ET mares need to be palpated daily once they have an appropriate sized follicle, you will have some farm calls that are not split. Additionally, early in the season if there are not enough mares to split the call, your farm call may be higher.

MANAGING OLDER MARES: Aged mares or mares termed "old maidens" generally require more management than young mares. An old maiden is a mare approximately 8 years or older who has never had a foal. These mares are generally our toughest candidates to get to conceive which translates into additional dollars out of your pocket. The following topics discuss the areas we pay close attention to while managing all mares but especially aged mares.

FRESH SEMEN : It is absolutely imperative that you have good fresh semen, especially for an old maiden. Semen transport is an opera of numbers of spermatozoa available to the embryo for conception. Therefore, we will not use frozen semen on first-time old maiden mares. Our goal is to get your mare to conceive. We examine all incoming semen for progressive motility, cleanliness and packaging.

PROGESTERONE: Embryo transfer mares are managed intensely surrounding their cycle. It has been standard practice for us to place a mare on Regu-Mate the day post ovulation until she is flushed for an embryo.

FLUID ACCUMULATION IN THE UTERUS: An old mare's uterus loses its ability to contract as the mare ages, whether or not she has had a foal. These contractions help move the semen up into the fallopian tubes and also help expel excess fluids accumulated during estrus or post breeding. The treatment for this is simple but effective. It involves giving hormone injections surrounding breeding or manually "flushing" the fluid out of the uterus. We check for fluid accumulation during and post breeding with the ultrasound. Oxytocin injections to help expel fluid are \$20.00 per cycle. Flushes are \$75.00 if necessary.

THYROID HORMONE: Thyroid hormone deficiencies will cause reproductive problems, especially in older mares. Blood tests are available to test for thyroid hormone levels. If a mare is low, there is a powdered supplement, which is inexpensive and can be added to the feed. These mares have a tendency not to shed their hair coat and are generally "easy keepers" or have a "cresty" neck. This test is \$45.00.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: Caslicks and post breeding flushes are performed if appropriate when necessary. The number of cells sent via transported semen is small and not appropriate for some older mares. With age, reproductive capacity can diminish significantly. Embryo transfer mares are worked with quite often and a permanent caslicks can be difficult to work with. For such an occasion, we use a temporary caslicks by means of stapling the vulva partially closed. There is no cutting or sewing and the staples are easily removed or replaced as necessary.

Veterinary and management fees are due and payable prior to the departure of your mare or with billing at the end of the month via credit card. Should any extraordinary procedures be necessary, we will contact you about the procedures and costs. Thank you again for visiting our website.

Sincerely,

Neil and Robin DeRue