

**Prima Equestrian**

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VDL Frozen Semen Thawing Instructions**Materials**

Water Bath (max 2 liter) with wide neck (Temp = 37 degree C)

Thermometer

Stopwatch

Pair of scissors

Pair of tweezers

Liquid nitrogen container, containing the dose of semen. Note that each collection dose has a different number of straws per insemination. Your shipment should have come with paperwork that tells you the number of straws for you to use for each dose. If you do not have this, contact us or VDL Stud.

15 ml tubes

20 ml syringes

Insemination pipette

Clean Paper Towels

Thawing Procedure:

- 1) Have the mare ready and stand-by for insemination.
- 2) Place the liquid nitrogen container as close as possible to the Water Bath. Place thermometer into the Water Bath and make sure temperature is at 37 degrees C.
- 3) Take one straw out of the visotube with a pair of tweezers and put it quickly (with the sealed side up) into the 37 degree C. Water Bath.
- 4) Put the straws *one at a time* into the Water Bath. *Do not* put all the straws in at the same time.
- 5) Start the stopwatch after the last straw. After 30 seconds, take the straws out and dry them off with a clean paper towel.
- 6) Cut the sealed side and put the straw upside down in a 15 ml **pre-warmed tube (37 degree C)**. Cut the other side off and the straw will empty itself inside the pre-warmed tube.
- 7) Empty the other straws the same way.
- 8) Fill the insemination pipette by introducing the pipette into the pre-warmed tube and sucking the semen into the pipette.
- 9) Inseminate the mare immediately.
- 10) Your mare must be inseminated using one full dose of frozen semen within 4-6 hours post ovulation. Do not breed using frozen semen if you suspect the mare has ovulated more than 6 hours earlier. Post ovulation ensures that you will not require more than 1 dose per heat cycle. The use of an AI "Gun" is highly recommended to get maximum use of all the semen in the straw.

Be sure to inseminate your mare on the right moment! We recommend within 4-6 hours of post ovulation, but the closer to ovulation, the better chance you have for a pregnancy.

WARNING: Do not keep the frozen semen canister in the nitrogen tank above the liquid nitrogen for longer than 8 seconds or the semen will be damaged. Have all your materials very clean, sterilized.