



Breeding By Using Imported Semen FAQ sheet

The LAA is keen that breeders should gain new bloodlines from overseas, and has issued this document to answer some questions:

- *How can we know if the stallion is of sufficient quality to make my expenditure worthwhile?*

The stallion must have been accredited in order that his offspring may be registered in this country. However, there are many instances where horses have been accredited but have turned out to be less good than previously thought, perhaps when considering their offspring, or where unsoundness has become obvious, or a temperament problem has made itself obvious. Please ask the LAA to do some research for you before you decide on a stallion.

- *What guarantee will I get of obtaining a foal?*

There are no guarantees with frozen semen. Not all stallion's semen freezes successfully, so it should have been tested by successfully using it for breeding in it's home country. You will be provided with a certain number of straws which will give a certain number of tries. The contract you have with the seller of the semen will state how many tries this gives and what may be done with extra semen if you are fortunate to gain a pregnancy before all your tries have been used. There will be no guarantee, though, of a live foal.

- *What are likely to be the extra costs I will face, after contracting to purchase the semen?*

It is a very costly matter to obtain semen that is acceptable for importation to Australia (or New Zealand). The stallion will have to be sent to an AQIS approved quarantined collection centre. There the AQIS approved Veterinarian will perform multiple testing on the stallion over a period of time, to be sure he is free from all diseases not acceptable to Australia. The paperwork must be precise, or it will not be accepted. Usually the health tests from all over Europe are performed at British Laboratories for quality control. Then sample collections will be made over a period of time.

The process normally takes about two months in the quarantine centre. The Veterinarian will assess the quality of each collection and this information will be released to the stallion owner. It is imperative that you, the purchaser is given a copy of this information regarding ALL the semen you are purchasing, as you must be sure you are purchasing truly viable semen. You will then have to arrange to ship the semen. The shipping company can arrange the AQIS import permit when all paperwork complies with requirements.

The semen will need to be insured. Once in Australia, there will be customs clearing charges. The semen will then be sent to a depot, from where you will arrange to have it shipped to a storage service facility. This facility will charge

monthly for storage, and also for shipping to your Veterinarian when you require it.

- *What percentage success rate can be expected when using frozen semen?*

It is generally claimed that there should be about a 30% success rate. This depends on the quality of the semen, the fertility of the mare, the experience of the person who does the insemination.

- *Which mares are likely to have the highest success rate?*

Do not use old mares. Do not use mares with poor vulval conformation or those with history of infection. Use only the highest quality accredited mares. Be aware of bloodlines.

- *How do I find a suitably experienced Veterinarian or technician?*

As time goes on, more and more vets are gaining experience in using frozen semen, which is extremely delicate. We would advise though, to use a vet recommended by others that have had success through his services. If you need support from others that have tried, please contact the LAA.

- *If I am fortunate enough to achieve a pregnancy in my mare, how much is the foal likely to be worth?*

The foal will need to be accredited like any other purebred Lipizzaner. The value will depend on it's quality. Just because the sire is overseas, it does not give you any guarantees of better quality than you could, in any case, breed in this country.

If the foal is a filly there would definitely be added interest because of breeding prospects. The degree of interest would depend on her quality and her mother's bloodlines.

If the foal is a colt, he may be good quality but it is also possible that he may not be stallion material, as he may not be exceptional, and/or his mother might have less useful bloodlines (Rule of thumb, one in ten colts make stallions). The market then for lesser quality colt/gelding would be as a riding horse, and it is unlikely that he would fetch a premium as such.

If you have further questions that are not answered here, please feel free to discuss the matter with a member of the LAA Committee – perhaps this document could be expanded, making it more useful to others.