

Let's talk Reproduction!

Is your bitch getting pregnant?

Are your dog's sperm hitting the targets?

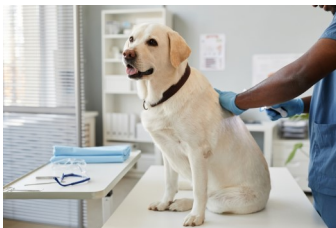


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Be sure to visit our website townsvillevetclinic.com.au for more information on caring for your pets large and small, and the services provided by the Townsville Veterinary Clinic



Instagram



If your bitch isn't getting pregnant, she might not be the one to blame!

Successful animal reproduction not only requires perfect ovulation timing and appropriate insemination, but also requires GOOD QUALITY SPERM!

Now I know it is said that it only takes one good sperm to get a bitch pregnant, but the research says that isn't the case! To produce a pregnancy, a dog's ejaculate needs to contain a minimum of 100 million (ideally 200 million!) normal motile spermatozoa.

An ejaculate should also ideally contain at least 80% progressively motile spermatozoa, and 80% morphologically normal spermatozoa to increase the chances of pregnancy.

Do you know if your dog is reaching those targets??

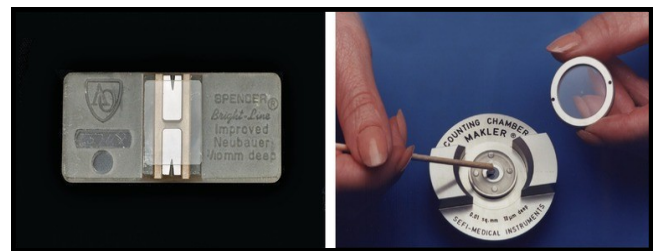
Finding out if they are is relatively simple. By collecting the male in the presence of a bitch in season, we are able to analyze the ejaculate to ensure it's reaching these ideal parameters.

Despite common opinion, just because your dog produces a "big load" doesn't mean that he's got a lot of sperm. The quantity of sperm is determined by the concentration of the ejaculate.

To identify the concentration of sperm in the ejaculate we

use special devices called a "Makler" chambers or a haemocytometers. Using this device and some mathematics, we can then accurately give a total spermatozoa number in the ejaculate.

By identifying whether the ejaculate produced by your dog is good quality, we can rule out or rule in the reason why your bitch may not be getting pregnant.

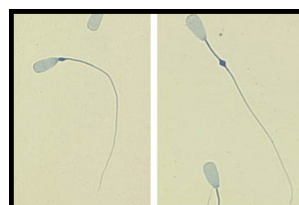


Pictured on the left is a haemocytometer and on the right is a Makler chamber.

Progressive motility, or movement of the sperm forward, can be determined by analysing a sample of the sperm under a light microscope.

We determine if the spermatozoa have any deformities which may impede normal fertilization by looking at fixed sample under a light microscope, or ideally a DIC or phase microscope.

Some of the most common deformities we identify are distal and proximal cytoplasmic droplets (as pictured below). Other deformities include; detached heads, coiled tails, deformed heads and mid-piece abnormalities.



[Interested in knowing if your dog is up to the task? For this month, we are offering ONE-FREE semen analysis with every bitch first breeding consultation.](#)

Please note that this is not a breeding soundness examination, and we will only be analyzing the semen concentration, motility and morphology. We will not be writing a breeding soundness certificate for the males whose semen we have analysed, as this is a different cost. If you are interested in a breeding soundness examination for your male, please contact Townsville Vet Clinic for further discussion.