

## These are appropriate questions for any bitch owner prior to selecting a stud and purchasing and ordering semen.

A bitch owner has a major investment when choosing a stud .

A bitch is selected, paid for, and raised for a suggested 2 years before she should be deemed both fit and desirable for breeding. Health testing, including hip evaluation by radiographs, genetic testing and profiling, are a few of the many tests recommended to be performed before choosing to breed your bitch. After she has been carefully selected for breeding, a fertility evaluation is often performed to make sure the bitch should be able to be bred without any obvious complications. She should be Brucella tested a few weeks prior to each breeding. Appropriate vaccinations, and pre breeding boosters should be completed prior to her target heat cycle. Progesterone/hormone testing is usually conducted for timing the ovulation for optimal conception rates. The breeding procedure may be live coverage, but more commonly side by side transvaginal artificial insemination. It is also very common in many breeds, especially with shipped chilled or frozen semen, to perform surgical insemination, or transcervical insemination (TCI). If the bitch requires a cesarean section, this is not only expensive, but poses a risk to both the bitch and puppies while under anesthesia, and recovering from the procedure. Risks involved during some of the health tests, and the breeding procedures include anesthetic risks of losing the bitch. There are risks for secondary infections and pyometra following any type of breeding, which can lead to expensive medical treatments and surgery that often make the bitch unable to be bred again. There is a risk of bringing the bacteria Brucella into the kennel, which poses a life threatening health risk to the owner and can also wipe out an entire kennel. There are time commitments, including scheduling time and travel expenses to have the care done before, during, and after breeding.

Considering all these risks and expenses incurred by the bitch owner during breeding, minimizing the probability to end up empty handed at the end of the breeding can be altered by choosing the right stud. Missing a litter that could potentially have a value of upwards of \$30,000, and having to wait for another 6 to 8 months for another ovulation is less than ideal, and should be avoided if possible.

The bitch owner should be able to ask any stud owner to answer these very normal and important questions to help you plan accordingly and evaluate the risks that you are taking when considering breeding their stud.

Has he been bred before?

What health testing has been done on him?

When is the last time he's been exposed to another female outside of his kennel?

Was he bred live, or was he collected?

When was his last Brucella test?

Is there a vet record of that Brucella test, and can it be sent?

How many litters has he had?

Is a bitch in heat used to tease during every collection?

Was the semen chilled or frozen?

Has semen separator been used on his semen?

What extenders have been used on his semen?

What is his average sperm count per ejaculant?

What is the volume of semen per ejaculant?

What is his average volume per ejaculation?

What is the average motility of the sperm?

Is the sperm fractionated by a centrifuge or fractionated during collection?

Is the collection performed by a vet?

How many days does his semen stay good for once chilled?

How many times a week/per day is he being collected?

Will he be collected for any other bitch the day you will be using him?

How many puppies is his litter guarantee?