

# Artificial Insemination (AI) Tips



## **Things that Kill Sperm:**

1. Heat ... avoid blow drying near the testicles. Heat kills sperm! Avoid really hot baths if you are planning on using your boy in the near future. Some heat damage can be permanent.
2. Seminal Fluid ... yes the fluid that the sperm lives in actually kills it. When collecting for an AI, ensure that you do not gather extra seminal fluid.
3. Water ... yes plain old H<sub>2</sub>O. Plain water sucks the fluid out of the sperm cells and kills it through osmosis. Be sure to wash the components of your AI kit with saline. It can be used to rinse your boy as well. (See the recipe below for non-sterile saline)
4. Latex kills sperm. Stay away from latex tubing, cones and gloves when performing AIs.
5. Air ... well ... it doesn't actually kill the sperm ... the air bubbles just distract them. Sperm are persistent but not very bright and they often mistake the round little air bubbles for ova and try to inseminate them. The sperm waste their energy on the air bubbles and do not continue their journey to the egg. To avoid this, and keep the sperm focussed on the task at hand, you can use an extender to push the sperm through the AI tube. You can obtain extender from your Veterinarian, or make your own (See suggestions below for homemade extenders for fresh semen)

## **Recipes:**

### Non-Sterile Saline:

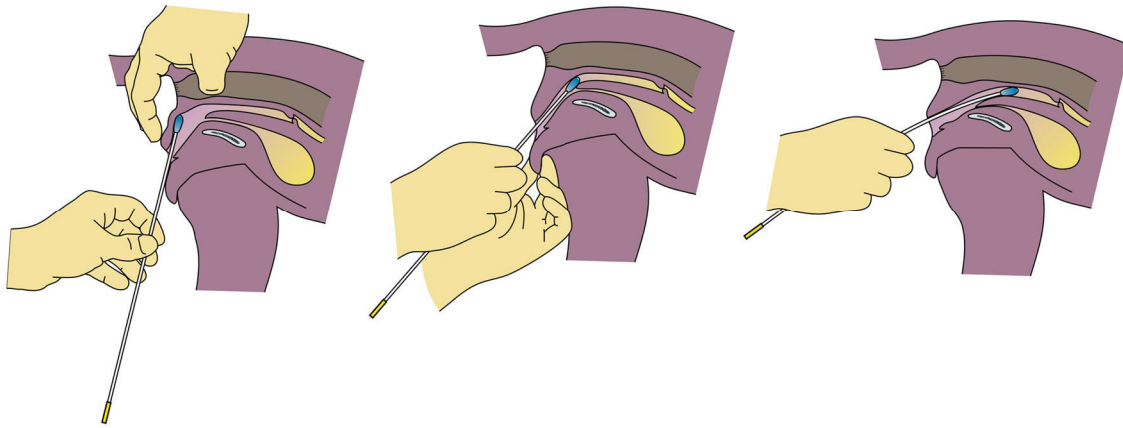
- 1 quart of distilled water
- 2 to 3 tsp of Kosher, Pickling or Sea Salt. (Do NOT use regular table salt as it contains iodine and other additives.)
- 1 tsp of baking soda (the bicarbonate reduces the salt's tendency to sting).

It is best to mix the saline as needed. Use only distilled water. Apply topically as required. Do NOT use internally, IV or Sub-Q.

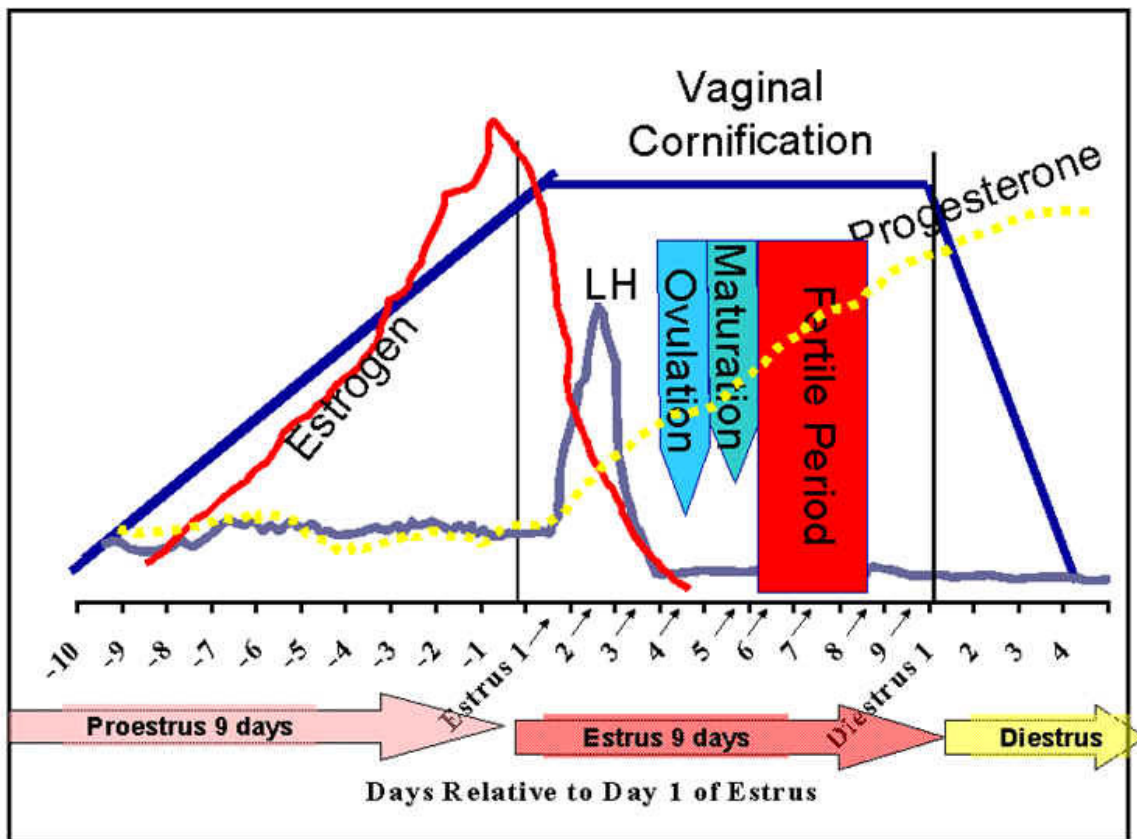
### Homemade Extenders for use with fresh sperm:

- Warmed Milk
- Warmed Egg Yolk
- Contact your Veterinarian for extenders to use with fresh chilled or frozen semen.

*The information provided is based on the traditional and historic use of herbal and homeopathic remedies as well as personal anecdotal experience. This does not constitute medical, veterinary or professional advice. Any person making the decision to act upon this information is responsible for investigating and understanding the effects of their own decisions and actions.*



Please consult your Veterinarian for the proper procedure to use when performing an Artificial Insemination.



LSU School of Veterinary Medicine  
 Skip Bertman Drive • Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
 Telephone: 225-578-9900 • Fax: 225-578-9916 • E-mail: [svmweb@vetmed.lsu.edu](mailto:svmweb@vetmed.lsu.edu)

Copyright © 2006. All Rights Reserved Louisiana State University

Images on this page are courtesy of the Louisiana State University

**AI Kits & Supplies can be purchased from: QuinnCarlin Distributors Ltd.,  
 Phone: 866-MID-WOOF, [www.midwoof.com](http://www.midwoof.com), [info@midwoof.com](mailto:info@midwoof.com)**