

## **CALCULATING THE OPTIMUM TIME FOR INSEMINATION**

There are many systems available for the breeders to calculate the optimum time for breeding and insemination. The most reliable by far is based on Quantitative Blood Progesterone levels. This allows us to quite accurately determine the time of ovulation

There is no specific blood progesterone level at which a bitch should be bred. Instead we aim to inseminate during a certain period after the calculated time of ovulation as when a bitch ovulates her eggs are immature and cannot be penetrated by sperm until they have matured. This takes between 40 & 60 hours. . To mate a bitch naturally we make the first time 24 - 36 hours after ovulation and then again the next day. There is no reason to skip a day if you have accurately identified the most fertile period

Chilled semen survives quite well in the bitch's uterus so we aim to inseminate it 36 to 48 hours after ovulation.

With frozen semen, it is deposited directly into the uterus and you breed a little bit later - that is approx. 60 - 72 hours after the blood progesterone levels indicate ovulation. This is the time when most of the eggs are mature and ready for fertilization. Thus the sperm can almost immediately penetrate the eggs and they are not required to survive so long before fertilization.