Information For Clients:

Induced Ovulation for Insemination

Some mares show obvious oestrus behaviour when in season but it can be difficult to know when others are in season, especially when they are kept on premises where no stallion is present. It is possible to induce ovulation on these mares with good success rates assuming normal fertility. There will be variation in the exact ovulation date so daily scanning or teasing will still be necessary but at least we will all know when to start doing this. The regime is based on Loomis and Squires (2005). Day 1 should be a Sunday and Day 10 will be a Wednesday as follows:

Days 1 to 10   Daily altrenogest (Regumate, Intervet UK Ltd) in feed

Day 10   Visit to inject dinoprost prostaglandin (Lutalyse, Pfizer Ltd)

Start scanning on Day 15 which will be a Monday and examine daily. The average mare will be medicated and inseminated as below but daily examinations mean that those which progress more slowly or more quickly will be identified, not missed, and inseminated at the optimum time.

Day 17 (on average) Scan and check for 35 mm follicle and to inject HCG (Chorulon, Intervet UK Ltd)

Day 18 (on average) Scan and check for follicle development Inseminate / cover late afternoon around 36 hours after HCG

Day 19 (on average) Check for ovulation and for presence of uterine fluid

The cost of the 10 days oral hormone therapy and day 10 visit and prostaglandin injection is around £87.50 plus VAT assuming the mare is located in the normal practice area. However this regime can save fees, which are not included in the AI package, for examinations when the mare is not in season and enables the visit to the surgery and semen ordering for artificial insemination to be planned in advance avoiding weekends when semen collection and delivery by couriers can be problematical. One saved visit and reproductive examination and the program has paid for itself and if the mare ovulates at the weekend having not had the program the cost of a whole cycle at several hundred pounds can be saved.