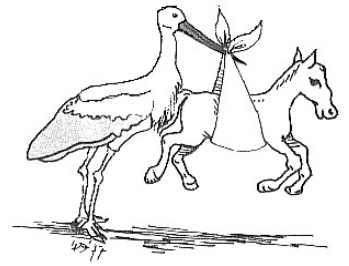


Equine Reproductive Services (UK) Limited

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Guidelines for insertion of intra-uterine spheres (marbles)

- Mare(s) should be suitably restrained for all examinations. Use of stocks, sedation and physical restraint should be used as appropriate.
- The sterile sphere should be inserted ideally within 36 hours prior to ovulation or in the first 24 hours post ovulation.
- It is assumed that the mare is free from pre-existing uterine pathology prior to sphere insertion.

Procedure

1. Monitor the stage of the mare's cycle and follicle size by ultrasound.
2. When follicle size is 36mm (or greater) and the mare is in-season (uterine oedema present, relaxed cervix) administer preferred ovulating agent.
3. Re-examine with ultrasound 1-2 days later to confirm ovulation and insert sphere:
 - Empty the mares rectum of faeces
 - Apply tail bandage and clean vulva/perineal area with warm water and preferred cleansing agent then dry with clean paper towel
 - With a gloved hand take sphere in the palm and in an aseptic manner, using sterile lubricant, pass your hand and the sphere up to the external cervical os.
 - Insert sphere through the relaxed cervix
 - Remove your hand and re-insert into rectum; manipulate the sphere trans-rectally to the cranial uterine body/base of uterine horn
4. Re-examine the mare by ultrasound 1 day later and assess for uterine fluid/inflammation. If fluid present treat appropriately. If fluid is present then the mare should be re-examined daily and treated until no uterine fluid remains.

There are clearly variations on the timings in this procedure and this is meant only as a guide. If any clarification is necessary please contact us at the office.

There are no studies regarding the long term presence of intrauterine spheres so it is our recommendation that the sphere is removed at the end of the breeding season and the mare screened for uterine health. If a further period of use is required a new sphere can be inserted after a period of normal cyclicity.

Equine Reproductive Service (UK) limited does not accept any liability for any untoward effects, or any other consequences, due to the presence an intrauterine sphere(s) supplied by, or inserted by veterinary surgeons other than those employed by Equine Reproductive Services (UK) limited.