

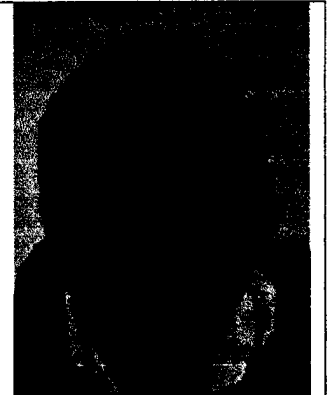
World Greyhound Racing Federation  
2000 Conference - Sydney

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TOPIC Latest methodologies  
'Methodology update - Frozen Semen, Kooled Semen and Progesterone Testing in Australia'

DATE& TIME Day 2 - Saturday 11th November 2000  
12.20 - 12.35pm



**PROFILE OF SPEAKER AND SYNOPSIS**

**ORGANISATION** Consultant to Sports & Entertainment Services - Vietnam  
Superintendent, Belmont Veterinary Hospital

**BIOGRAPHY** - - Refer to Greyhound Racing and Technology..  
'Application of New Technologies to Greyhound Racing Management'

## Methodology Update

### Frozen Semen, Kooled Semen & Progesterone Testing in Australia

The efficiencies of Breeding Technology that we now embrace are due largely to the tireless and committed work of Richard & Sharyn Conole. As little as ten years ago studmaster responsibility was low as bitches were presented on the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> day for breeding. This attitude still exists with some old school studmasters today but many have been made aware of the essentials of progesterone monitoring and taking control of the breeding - eliminating as many variables as possible that might result in a missed conception.

We must question the validity of the rules that control our breeding industry in the light of the technology that is widely adopted today. They were formulated without the reasonable foresight of future developments and as such are destined to change to embrace new breeding methods.

Breeding in the Greyhound industry should not be singled out and penalised with obstructive rules compared to breeding with show dogs and agility dogs. These rules at present prevent us from embracing fully the benefits of new technology for the betterment of the breed.

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KOOLED SEMEN

**Over the past two years we have produced dozens of showdog litters from sires all over Australia with bitches that never left home.**

**The Carnelot Farms system has been successful with a network of operators in Brisbane, Newcastle & Melbourne, all trained from the source at College Station, Texas USA.**

**Australia's summer climate and inevitable transport delays affect the normal progression of the oestrous cycle in many bitches that have been transported long distances for breeding. Often these bitches so sent do not fail pregnant or go off season before mating. Trainers should not be penalised because they breed greyhounds and not \*show dogs". They should have the option of Kooled semen.**

**Methodology & Technology exists but Regulations prevent.**

Components of Success with Kooled Semen

**High quality extender to protect & nourish the semen**

**Efficient Transport method**

**Precise Progesterone monitoring of the Bitch**

**Good communication between Stud, Vet & Owner of the bitch**

Aspects of Implementation of Kooled Semen Approval

- ° **Proven Technology & Methodology already**  
**\* Progesterone Testing**

**Accredited Operators**

- ° **Secure & Temperature efficient Transport System**
- ° **Document path from Source to Breeding overseen by regulatory authority**

**DNA Confirmation available**

**We need to avail ourselves of the efficiencies Kooled Semen provides for wider marketing of stud dogs in Australia and NZ.**

**Trials we have conducted with the extender of Camelot Farms has shown excellent motility and viability after day 3 (recommended to use by day 2 ) and with a 33% reduction in motility by day 5.**

## FROZEN SEMEN

**We have accepted and utilized the technology of FS in Australia based on the Camelot Farms system of semen preservation (SPS). This technology allows Preservation of the gene pool by allowing the stud dog to sire puppies when he is no longer able to do so**

- **Ability to breed the dog when his performance is not up to par**
- **Ability to breed the same sire on several occasions on the same day & in different locations**

**Increased marketing potential for the stud dog in locations where he will never travel**

**The ability to prove the stud dog before he retires to stud**

- **Less time & travel costs for the brood bitch**

**Ability to test semen quality before breeding**

**Provide insurance against loss of stud dog reproductive services**

**Ability to keep the dog reproductively active when not being used for matings**

**Ability to achieve more than one breeding from one collection**

### **Positive control of reproductive diseases**

**The more we use the SPS of Camelot Farms the more it becomes evident that the regulations governing its use in Australia were not determined with this latest technology in mind.**

**At Belmont Veterinary Hospital we have at times collected very rich semen samples capable of being split 6 -7 times yet still satisfying the 100 million normal living sperm requirement for insemination.**

**If we package this in 7 vials, only one or two are used for insemination here in Australia -the rest is tipped down the sink - An unacceptable waste of resources with our valuable stud dogs - you never know when you might not have them.**

**The premature loss of Golden Currency without leaving a larger legacy to our breeding gene pool should be insured against by legislation that enables us to have more freedom in the frequency of collections and in the splitting of semen. The responsibility for the ethical and physiological management of these stud dogs should lie with the Studmaster (competition in an open market) and the attending Veterinarian.**

**Frozen Semen - some current difficulties**

**1. Transport company catastrophes**

**Off-loading**

**Lost paperwork**

**Opening shippers to look inside because of lost paperwork**

**Shipper failure/ transit damage**

a **Loss of liquid nitrogen**

a **Thawing of contents**

**2. Difficulty in providing service by trained operators at the time when needed by all studmasters**

a **Multiple operators per facility**

## **PROGESTERONE TECHNOLOGY**

**The key that unlocks the gates to the proven technologies and methods of the SPS & Kooled Semen is Progesterone Testing**

**Without that we would have no idea when a bitch will ovulate and breeding a dog & bitch in the same location can be nothing but a best guess. Breeding at a distant location or overseas becomes impossible without the guidance of Progesterone testing. At Belmont Veterinary Hospital we have had successful pregnancies from matings on day 6 of season to day 43 (9 pups).**

### **What is Progesterone / How is it Measured?**

**Progesterone is a hormone that rises as the bitch's heat or cycle progresses and as it rises to a certain level ovulation or egg release is triggered. There are complex laboratory assessments to assay this hormone but at times it is difficult to interpret the units of measurement from one laboratory to the next.**

**The Camelot Farms system has been based on the Ovucheck / Date to Mate Progesterone Test kit which provides an in house assessment within one hour of blood sampling. Further developments with this kit in the New Year will enhance its functionality and usability, providing even greater pinpointing of ovulation and an assessment of when a bitch has progressed too far in the season to be bred. The exact detail is of these enhancements are beyond the scope of this synopsis except to note that technology is developing to further enhance accuracy in our breeding controls.**

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CONCLUSION

**We do not want to be penalised because we breed greyhounds and not some other breed by not having access to these new technologies of Kooled semen. We do not want to be tipping the semen of our valuable stud dogs down the sink because splits are not allowed - this is abusing - not using efficiencies afforded by new technology.**

**Our Breeding Industry will prosper with the adoption of vital regulatory changes.**

Dr John F Newell B.V.Sc. 591 Pacific Hwy Belmont NSW 2280