



Embryo Transfer Protocol

The aim is obtain an embryo from a mare of genetic value (donor mare) and transfer it into a surrogate or recipient mare. This allows the donor mare to remain in work or competition. Embryo transfer can also be used for donor mares that are sub-fertile, produce an embryo and then cannot maintain it in the uterus, or for donor mares that cannot carry a foal to term possibly due to an orthopaedic injury. Also some people use embryo transfer as a means of obtaining multiple foals from one mare in a given season.

It is important that the donor mare and the recipient mare cycles are closely synchronised. At the appropriate time, following administration of an ovulation induction agent, the donor mare is inseminated or covered naturally, when the donor mare ovulates the recipient mare is given the same ovulation induction agent, she then ovulates approximately 48 hours after the donor mare.

7 days for chilled and 8 days for frozen semen, after ovulation by the donor mare an embryo flush is performed to harvest the embryo. If the recipient mare is on site then the embryo will be transferred into her, using a non-surgical approach.

Following the embryo flush the donor mare is medicated with prostaglandin to bring her back into season and the process is repeated if required. The recipient mare is scanned 14/16 days after the donor mare ovulated, if in foal she is scanned again at 28/30 days and 42.

The costs

Artificial insemination – see attached protocol.

Synchronisation of recipient mare - **£120** + vat per recipient mare, mare per cycle, (usually 2 recipient mares).

Embryo Flush and Search - **£240** + vat

Non-Surgical transfer of embryo into recipient - **£130** + vat

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