



Collection and Shipment of Testes for Harvesting and Cryopreservation of Epididymal Sperm

Collection and cryopreservation of epididymal semen provides an opportunity an animal owner to retain genetic material (i.e. spermatozoa) in the event of unexpected death or euthanasia of a valuable buck, boar, bull or stallion. In addition, epididymal semen can be collected and cryopreserved following elective castration. However, in general spermatozoa collected from ejaculated semen will yield better pregnancy rates than epididymal semen.

Procedures:

1. **Information.** Please contact Membrane Preservation Technologies Incorporated and provide required information. An owner information form will be provided – please fill this out and send with shipment, and email a copy to MPTI.
2. **Testicle Removal.** Castrate the buck, bull, boar or stallion using normal procedures. Leave the testicle and epididymis intact – DO NOT remove the epididymis (see photo on next page). Ligate the Deferent Duct with suture to prevent sperm from leaking out.
3. **Packaging.** Place testicles on top of a folded towel or other material to buffer it from contact with cooling cans and prevent testicles from freezing. Two (2) frozen coolant cans or ice packs should be in the shipping container, but **should not** touch the testicles. Testicles should not be frozen, but should be kept cool until they arrive at MPTI.
4. **Shipping Container.** An Equitainer® , Styrofoam box or similar insulated shipping container can be used. Place two (2) frozen coolant cans or ice packs at the bottom of the container, cover with a towel or thick layer of paper towels or other buffering material. Place testicles at the very top.
5. **Shipment.** The container can be shipped by overnight courier or by counter-to-counter airline service. In order to optimize recovery and cryopreservation of epididymal spermatozoa, the shipment must arrive **withing 24 hours of castration.**

Shipping address:

**Agricultural Lab
5123 E County Road
Fort Collins, CO 80524**

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Fee Schedule *(all fees non-refundable)*

Processing Testes and Sperm Recovery
Epididymal Semen Freeze
Frozen Semen Storage
Shipping
Frozen Semen Handling Fee

Castration Guide

Below right is a goat testicle without the outer tunica, shown from two angles. Ideally, the animal should be castrated high enough to conserve as much of the vas deferens as possible. Some sperm are stored in the vas deferens, with the majority stored in the epididymal tail. The tail **must not be nicked, sliced or damaged**, or sperm will be lost.

