

Semen Handling Protocol

At Genus ABS, semen quality is a priority. Each collection undergoes a series of rigorous quality control evaluations to assure that every straw sold meets critical measures of semen quality.

Genus ABS quality control standards assure that each dose carries an adequate number of live progressively motile sperm.

However, it is important to remember that when using this semen the key to success is following basic handling procedures.

As with all semen correct handling of ABS Sexation will be critical to success.

Semen Handling Reminders

1. Semen transfer: Use tweezers, never fingers, to handle straws. Make all semen transfers between nitrogen tanks, or retrieval of semen from nitrogen tanks, within 10 seconds or within five seconds if extreme heat or high winds are present (if you need longer, lower the canister basket into the nitrogen for at least 10 seconds, before trying again).



2. Thawing procedure: Thaw semen in 35°C to 37°C (95°F to 98°F) water for 30 seconds. Fertility comparisons show an advantage for semen thawed in warm water.

3. Move the air bubble: Gently shake the straw to move the air bubble towards the plugged end of the straw before cutting. Shaking will not damage the straw and if semen is not moved, 1-5% of the sperm will be lost.

4. Environmental protection: Protect semen from environmental changes while loading into insemination equipment and transferring to the cow. Failure to protect sperm can either cause shock or heat stress, both of which result in lowered fertility.

5. Number of units: Thaw only the number of units of semen that can be placed in the reproductive tract within 5 minutes. The actual number of units of semen to thaw should be based on inseminator efficiency and facility impacts (pen size, lock ups etc).

6. Splitting straws: Under no circumstance should straws of semen be split.



While thawing and handling standards are identical to conventional semen, the margin of error for ABS Sexation is greatly reduced.

General principles behind thawing semen:

- Transition from ice to liquid should be as fast as possible
- Semen should be completely thawed prior to removing from water
- Temperature of semen should never get above 37°C
- Semen should not stay at 37°C for over a minute

We **strongly advise** that ABS Sextion should only be inseminated by qualified Genus ABS Technicians.