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Providing you with the most advanced services in Equine Reproduction

EXPAND YOUR OPTIONS WITH ICSI

ICSI: Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection

WHAT IS ICSI?

- ❖ Oocytes (eggs) are collected directly from the ovaries through ultrasound guided trans-vaginal aspiration and cultured until maturity.
- ❖ Once mature, a single sperm is injected into each oocyte.
- ❖ A percentage of those injected oocytes will progress and begin cellular division at around 24 hours and will become blastocysts (early-stage embryos) within 7 to 10 days after injection.
- ❖ Embryos can then be transferred immediately, shipped to other facilities for transfer or frozen and stored for future transfer.

WHY USE ICSI?

- ❖ The convenience of scheduling a single ovum pick-up (OPU)/aspiration session for busy performance mares vs. the breeding management and flushing schedule necessary for traditional embryo transfer (ET).
- ❖ It can be cheaper in the long run compared to managing a problem mare
- ❖ Allows for the possibility of multiple embryos being produced in one session.
- ❖ If enough oocytes are recovered, it is possible to perform ICSI using multiple stallions to get multiple genetic crosses in one session.

- ❖ Can be performed year-round as it is not necessary that the mare cycles and ovulates on her own
- ❖ Mares that fail to conceive or produce an embryo after multiple attempts with conventional breeding management.
- ❖ Failure of the mare to develop a follicle and ovulate.
- ❖ Cervical or chronic uterine problems that prevent the mare from becoming pregnant.
- ❖ Poor quality or limited amount of semen available due to age, injury or death of the stallion.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH ICSI?

- ❖ Recovery rate of oocytes depends on the number of follicles present at the time of aspiration. The more follicles the mare has, the greater the chance of recovering oocytes. On average, recovery rate of oocytes from immature follicles is 75%, or around 12 oocytes per OPU. The number of oocytes recovered will be a limiting factor when looking at overall chances of success.
- ❖ As mares age, there is a decline in oocyte quality. Therefore, the success rate in older mares will naturally be lower.
- ❖ Not all injected oocytes will develop into transferable embryos. The average number of blastocysts produced per OPU session at our lab is 2.1. It is important to note that this is an average, meaning that some mares will have multiple embryos produced, and others may have none, resulting in an average somewhere in the middle. It may be necessary to try multiple times with some mares to get an embryo.

FEE SCHEDULE:

Follicle Aspiration (OPU).....	\$1,140.00
ICSI (Injection)	\$595.00/stallion
Embryo Culture (Transferrable Blastocyst)	\$875.00/each

Follicle Aspiration (OPU) is considered an invasive medical procedure with potential risks.



2025 Transvaginal Follicle Aspiration/Post Mortem Oocyte Harvest Contract and Release

Peterson Smith Advanced Fertility Center, hereafter known as PSAFC, agrees to collect oocytes via transvaginal follicle aspiration or post mortem scraping of ovaries from the donor mare listed below for subsequent intracytoplasmic sperm injection at PSAFC, or to be shipped to an ICSI facility of the owner's choosing.

Name of mare	Breed	Age	Registration #
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SERVICES DESIRED

- ICSI w/ fresh or cooled semen
- ICSI w/ frozen semen
- Auto-transfer back into donor
- Transfer into owner recipient
- Transfer all fresh embryos produced
- Transfer #___ fresh, freeze the rest
- Freeze all embryos produced
- Ship all embryos produced to

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

STALLION INFORMATION REQUIRED

Stallion name: _____

Collection contact information:

- Name: _____
- Contact #: _____
- Collection days: _____
- Frozen/Cooled _____

Please list contact information for email updates

Referring veterinarian: _____

Email address: _____

Other: _____

Email: _____

Other: _____

Email: _____

By entering into this contract, the Owner/lessee agrees to the following conditions and charges when applicable:

1. To pay Equigea a one thousand one hundred forty dollars (\$1,140.00) fee for transvaginal follicle aspiration (TVA) or six hundred fifty dollars (\$650.00) to collect oocytes post mortem, as well as leave a deposit of five hundred ninety-five dollars (\$595.00) for sperm injection, all due at the time services are provided. In cases where no oocytes mature and none can be injected, a full refund of the injection deposit will be issued. Signee also agrees to pay all subsequent fees including but not limited to embryo culture fee per embryo, shipment of oocytes, recipient mare contract/lease fee, transfer or embryo freezing fees from the donor mare whose name appears above for the current breeding season only (defined as Jan 1st – Dec 31st).

2. Owner/lessee also agrees to pay for all veterinary fees associated with routine or emergency care of the donor mare. These expenses include but are not limited to board, ultrasound examinations for aspiration planning, farrier services, wound care etc.

3. If a different owner/lessee wishes to harvest oocytes from the donor mare identified in this contract, the new owner/lessee must enter a **NEW** mare contract with Equigea.

4. The Owner/lessee understands that Equigea makes no guarantee that oocytes will be recovered, or that any recovered oocytes will mature to be injected and later result in a positive pregnancy in the recipient. It is also understood that the donor mare's age and oocyte quality significantly affect the chances of success. ICSI produced embryos have a higher rate of early embryonic loss (EEL), and therefore initial positive pregnancy does not always result in the birth of a live foal.

5. Any embryos that are frozen as a result of ICSI, as well as any remaining frozen semen used for the procedure can be stored at PSAFC or shipped out to a facility of the owner/lessee's choosing. If stored at PSAFC the owner/lessee is responsible for paying any and all storage fees.

6. Splitting any collected oocytes and injecting with multiple stallions can only be performed when a minimum of **8** oocytes per stallion have been noted to have fully matured on the day of the scheduled injection. Injection fees will be charged based on the number of stallions used. (For example: Splitting between 3 stallions → ICSI injection fee of \$595.00 x 3)

7. The Owner/lessee acknowledges that TVA is considered an elective, invasive procedure that carries significant risks. Complications of this procedure include but are not limited to rectal tears, bleeding, ovarian infection/abscesses, peritonitis and even possible death. Equigea and its partners will not be held responsible for loss of oocytes, injury, illness or death of client animals while housed at PSAFC. We recommend giving the mare the day after aspiration off from work, with a slow return to normal level of activity over the following two days. Some mares may experience mild signs of discomfort following an aspiration which can be normal, however, careful monitoring is vital to ensure more serious complications do not arise.

8. In the event that PSAFC determines that the donor mare needs to be transferred to our Peterson Smith referral hospital for medical or surgical treatment, the Owner/lessee is responsible for all charges. PSAFC will make reasonable efforts to contact the Owner/lessee in the event that such transfer is required; however, if Owner/lessee cannot be immediately reached, Owner/lessee hereby authorizes PSAFC to initiate such transfer, care and treatment.

9. To pay all charges related to the Donor mare in full at the time of discharge. Equigea reserves the right to refuse service at any time at its discretion.

10. Aspirations are performed at Peterson Smith Advanced Fertility Center Mon – Wed, and shipped in oocytes will be accepted Mon – Thur.

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to comply with the terms and conditions stated above. Further, I authorize PSAFC to act as temporary agent on my behalf pursuant to paragraph 6 above should the mare require emergency medical or surgical treatment. This contract is subject to the laws of the State of Florida.

Name

Address

City, State

Zip Code

Phone number

E-mail Address

Signature

Date