



# Liphook Equine Hospital Reproductive Services

**LIPHOOK**  
EQUINE HOSPITAL



Liphook Equine Hospital, Forest Mere, Liphook, Hampshire, GU30 7JG  
Practice Reception: 01428 723594/ Hospital Reception: 01428 727200  
Email: [post@theleh.co.uk](mailto:post@theleh.co.uk) / Website: [www.theleh.co.uk](http://www.theleh.co.uk)



# Liphook Equine Hospital Reproductive Services

**Artificial insemination has made it possible for owners to get access to the best genetic material from around the world.**

Whilst natural cover is still required by certain governing bodies such as The Jockey Club, artificial insemination plays a big role in equine breeding, bringing with it a host of benefits to the mares, stallions and personnel involved:

- Reduced risk of disease transmission
- Reduced risk of injury to mare, stallion and personnel involved in natural cover
- Greater monitoring of semen quality
- Increased number of mares bred as each ejaculate can be split into multiple doses
- Ability to breed mares with stallions all over the world without the need to travel the mare
- Decreased physical demand on the stallion
- Allowing stallions to continue competing without the need for a break for the breeding season
- Use of semen from deceased stallions



## Pre-breeding health tests

Prior to commencing the AI program all mares should have a negative clitoral swab to test for sexually transmitted diseases, such as Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) and blood sample to test for EVA. Mares are admitted to the hospital as soon as signs of season are seen. If your mare doesn't show obvious signs of oestrus, then a prior examination at home and a prostaglandin injection and/ or course of Regumate, to bring her into season may be required. A uterine swab is often taken as early as possible when the mare is in oestrus and is submitted for laboratory examination for signs of infection which could interfere with conception.

## Fresh and Chilled Semen Package - What it includes:

- Uterine swabbing and laboratory fees
- Multiple examinations and scans as required to monitor ovarian development and ovulation
- Ovulation agent if necessary
- Insemination
- Examination of the semen under the microscope
- Post-ovulation and insemination scan
- First pregnancy scan around 15 days

## Frozen Semen Package: what it includes:

- Uterine swabbing and laboratory fees
- Multiple examinations and scans as required to monitor ovarian development and ovulation
- Ovulation implant if necessary
- Insemination
- Examination of the semen under the microscope
- Post-ovulation and insemination scan
- First pregnancy scan around 15 days

## Extras:

- Visit fees
- Livery whilst at the hospital
- Pre-breeding health check
- Additional medications, sedation and hormones
- Non-routine procedures such as caslick or treatment for endometritis
- Management of twins

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## Embryo Transfer

Embryo transfer is the collection of an embryo, around 7 days old, from the uterus of a donor mare and its transfer into the uterus of a recipient mare whose reproductive cycle has been synchronised to that of the donor. The recipient mare then carries the pregnancy to term and nurtures the foal until weaning. This process allows donor mares to be bred without interrupting their competition season or going through the risks of pregnancy. It also allows multiple foals to be produced from one mare in a single breeding season. It can also be useful in mares with some uterine based fertility issues to allow them to reproduce.

**We can provide mare insemination and embryo flushing here at the clinic as well as synchronising a recipient mare and implantation if required.**

## Mare Infertility Investigation

Mares that have failed to conceive will need to undergo investigations to identify and hopefully rectify the problem. The following are standard procedures for working up a barren mare:

- Assessment of vulval conformation
- Examination of the vagina and cervix
- Manual and ultrasonographic rectal examination of the uterus and ovaries
- Uterine swab sent to the laboratory for culture and sensitivity

Depending on the results of this initial assessment coupled with her breeding history we may need to do further tests to identify abnormalities

- Endometrial biopsy – enabling us to assess the health of the uterus lining
- Video endoscopy of the uterus to detect abnormalities not picked up on ultrasound or biopsy

## AI and Reproduction Unit at Liphook Equine Hospital

Mares, together with foals at foot, belonging to our own clients or referred from other practices may be admitted to our dedicated reproductive unit at Liphook Equine Hospital, for AI or supervised foaling. Mares and foals can be kept apart from the main hospital in our **AI and Reproduction Unit**, where mares may be kept stabled in our purpose built large mare and foal stables, or at grass according to their owner's preference.



## Mare foaling

We also offer a livery package for your mare to foal here which is particularly useful for high risk pregnancies.

We have two dedicated night nurses and an on-site veterinary surgeon at all times. We have full surgical facilities on-site as well as a team of Diplomats in Equine Medicine and Surgery should your mare need intervention.

## Neonatal Intensive Care

We have facilities with heated stables and the ability to separate the mare and foal within the same stable if necessary. Neonatal care is provided by an experienced team of European Diploma Qualified Medicine Specialists, as well as our reproductive Veterinarians.



# Liphook Equine Hospital Reproductive Services

The Liphook Equine Hospital is approved by the British Equine Veterinary Association to provide artificial insemination (AI) services with chilled and frozen semen and Huw Griffiths is currently chair person of the British A.I. Committee. AI is a popular and routine procedure for the breeding of sports horses. The health and safety benefits are well recognised and conception rates with fresh or chilled semen may equal those from natural service.

Our veterinary surgeons will be happy to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using freshly collected semen, fresh chilled semen or frozen semen. Successful AI depends on regular monitoring of the mare's ovaries and uterus so that she may be inseminated as close to ovulation as possible. The timing of insemination will be determined by which semen is chosen (see our 'Preparing your Mare for Breeding' leaflet).

## Meet our Reproductive Team

### Sarah Gent

**BVSC CertEM (Int.Med) MRCVS**

Sarah has over 20 years experience in equine reproduction. She graduated from the University of Sydney, Australia in 1995 and then worked as an equine vet, primarily with sports horses, for 2.5 years in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales. During this time she developed an interest in stud medicine and performed a large amount of artificial insemination using both chilled and frozen semen. Sarah came to the UK in 1998, initially on a working holiday and worked at equine practices in Cheshire and Surrey. She joined the Liphook Equine Hospital as part of the ambulatory team in 2001 where she has continued to develop her interests in sports horse medicine, internal medicine and stud medicine. Sarah was awarded the RCVS Certificate in Internal Medicine in 2004. She became a partner in 2011 and has recently started writing monthly for Horse and Rider Magazine.



### Huw Griffiths

**BSc BVSc Cert ESM (Stud Medicine) MRCVS**

Huw is currently Chairman of the clinical practice division of BEVA and currently the AI representative. He graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2000. After some time at Auburn University in Alabama, USA he worked in Tipperary where he was based at the Kedrah Stud where he was primarily involved with sports horse breeding. During this time he also spent time at Colorado State University, USA learning embryo transfer techniques. He then moved back to UK and worked in ambulatory equine practice in Surrey for 2.5 years before coming to Liphook in 2004. During his time as an ambulatory vet at The Liphook Equine Hospital he has continued to develop his interest in stud medicine. Huw looks after some of our larger studs and is part of our dedicated reproductive team.



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Practice Office: 01428 723594 / Hospital Office: 01428 727200

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