



WEATHERFORD EQUINE BREEDING CENTER  
6375 MINERAL WELLS HWY · WEATHERFORD, TX 76088  
PHONE: 817-594-9181 FAX: 817-594-9183  
BREEDING@WEATHERFORDEQUINE.COM

## Oocyte Services

Weatherford Equine (WE) is very experienced in providing for all the needs associated with collecting oocytes from your mare to undergo ICSI fertilization.

### **Overview of the Process for Utilizing ICSI**

The first step of the ICSI procedure is to recover oocytes from your mare. The oocytes are recovered by transvaginal follicular aspiration (TVA). In this procedure, using ultrasound guidance, a needle is used to aspirate follicles present on her ovary. The procedure is performed with your mare standing in the stocks under sedation and takes 15-60 minutes depending on how many follicles are being aspirated. This can be done as an outpatient procedure.

Once the oocytes have been collected, they are carefully processed, packaged, and sent to a reputable equine ICSI lab for fertilization.

The next step occurs at the ICSI lab and requires a small amount of semen that can be fresh or frozen depending on availability. We have strong working relationships with all the top equine ICSI labs in the country and can assist *if needed*, in coordinating semen delivery so that it arrives when it is needed for injection. Semen needs to be at the ICSI lab 2 days following an immature aspiration and 1 day following pre-ovulatory or combo aspiration.

Once ICSI fertilization has been completed and a healthy embryo is cultured at the laboratory (process takes 7-9 days) the resulting embryos will need to be implanted into recipient mares. We work closely with the ICSI labs to coordinate shipping them back to Weatherford Equine for transfer, or to the recipient facility of your choice. If ICSI is performed in the off-season, or if excess embryos develop, the embryos can be vitrified, and the shipping is coordinated at a later time.

### **Mature vs. Immature Oocytes and Anticipated Results**

There are 2 approaches for obtaining mature oocytes for the ICSI procedure.

**Pre-ovulatory (Mature) Aspiration:** A large dominant follicle is aspirated right before the mare ovulates in her cycle.

- This method allows the mare to "mature" the oocyte in a natural setting, her body
- These oocytes typically have a higher likelihood of becoming a transferable embryo (~45%) but there is typically only one dominant follicle to aspirate per session
- This can be done every time the mare cycles, approximately every 14 days but does require that she be cycling

**Immature Aspiration:** All the follicles present on the mare's ovary are aspirated regardless of where she is at in her cycle

- The immature oocytes require further maturation in the lab. Then, once mature (~65% of the oocytes collected), the oocyte is fertilized similarly to a mature pre-ovulatory oocyte

- These oocytes don't have as high of likelihood of becoming transferable embryos (~30%), but typical immature aspiration sessions at Weatherford Equine will yield an average of 11 immature oocytes
- This approach can potentially be done every 14 days and the mare does not have to be cycling, she only needs to have multiple follicles present, sometimes it is beneficial to wait longer between sessions to allow more follicles to develop

Statistically there is a much higher chance of achieving pregnancies via the immature aspirations, but this is dependent on the mare having a large number of follicles. Some mares may not be good candidates for immature aspiration and can only be done using the pre-ovulatory method.

**Aspirations at WE average of just over two blastocysts produced per immature aspiration session.**

\*Every donor mare is different, and results can vary considerably\*

**Combination Aspiration:** In the event there are a large number of small follicles present at the same time as a large dominant follicle both the Immature and Pre-ovulatory aspirations can be performed at the same time allowing the benefits of both.

#### **Potential risks of the TVA and ICSI procedures**

TVA is not a benign procedure. However statistically there is very little risk associated with TVA and ICSI but as with any procedure there can be complications. Potential complications include but are not limited to rectal tear, severe internal bleeding, ovarian infection/abscess, and peritonitis. Again, these are rare but possible complications associated with these procedures and could be potentially life threatening.

TVA is a relatively new clinical procedure and we are still gathering information about the effect of repeated TVAs on the subsequent fertility of mares. To date, the studies published have shown repeated TVAs do not have any negative impact on fertility and we have not observed any negative effects on mares in our program.

#### **Anticipated Costs**

Every case is different but in general you can expect to pay \$2,500-\$3,500 to produce a viable embryo from one aspiration to implant into a recipient. This estimate includes: aspiration, packaging and shipping recovered oocytes to an ICSI lab, culture of oocytes at the ICSI lab, ICSI fertilization of mature oocytes, culture of embryos, and shipment of embryos back to WE.

Please note **this does not include the price of a pregnant recipient**, which will be dependent on the transfer facility you choose. For specific prices please refer to the WE Oocyte Fee Schedule and the ICSI contract for the ICSI lab being used.

#### **ICSI Labs we are Currently Working with:**

EquiEmbryo - Ft Worth, TX

Equine Medical Services - Columbia, MO

## 2022 OOCYTE FEE SCHEDULE AND ICSI MARE COMMON CHARGES

<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>
<b>Aspiration Fees</b>	
Mature oocyte aspiration*	\$575
Immature oocyte aspiration *	\$1,050
Combined pre-ovulatory/immature oocyte aspiration*	\$1,200
<b>Post Mortem Fees</b>	
Ovary dissection/oocyte collection	\$700
<b>Shipping Fees</b>	
Courier (EquiEmbryo)	\$110
FedEx using active control incubator	\$275
Airline using active control incubator	\$425

\*All aspirations include:

- Sedation, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatories **at the time of procedure**
- Processing follicular aspirate for oocyte recovery
- Packaging of oocytes for transport

NO CHUTE FEE FOR ICSI MARE MANAGEMENT: CHARGED PER SERVICE

<b>Boarding</b>	
Dry mare	\$23 per day
Wet mare	\$25 per day
<b>Services</b>	
Ultrasound	\$30
Uterine lavage ( <i>price dependent on antibiotics used</i> )	\$78+
Uterine infusion ( <i>price dependent on antibiotics used</i> )	\$40+
<b>Recipient Mare</b>	
ICSI embryo implanted ( <i>non-refundable</i> )	\$350
Successful pregnancy @ 35 days*	\$3,750

\* Once the recipient mare is 35 days pregnant, she will put on board at a rate of \$15/day. If she is still here at 60 days of gestation her board rate will increase to \$20/day until she is picked up. Recipient mare charge plus any board charges are due in full at time of pickup.



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**2022 OOCYTE ASPIRATION CONTRACT**

Weatherford Equine Breeding Center, hereinafter WE, agrees to perform transvaginal oocyte aspiration procedures for the donor mare listed below. All viable collected oocytes will be shipped to an appropriate ICSI lab for further processing of oocytes in an attempt to create a viable embryo.

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Donor Mare: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By entering into this contract, the Owner agrees to the following:

1. To pay WE for each transvaginal oocyte aspiration performed on this mare (see Fee Schedule)
2. To pay for shipment of oocytes to the ICSI lab of owner's choice (see Fee Schedule)
3. To pay all veterinary fees associated with routine or emergency care of donor mare and/or foal.
4. WE makes no guarantees, warranties, or representations as to the success or outcome of the transvaginal oocyte aspiration procedures herein contemplated.
5. Transvaginal oocyte aspiration is not without some risk to the mare. The owner accepts all potential procedural risks including any complications that may develop as a result of this procedure and accept that such complications may incur additional fees. Owner has been made aware of common potential complications of this procedure and acknowledges that post-procedural care may be required and will be undertaken as deemed necessary by WE.
6. The Owner will release and hold WE harmless from any claim, demand or loss arising from any disease, injury or death to the Donor Mare and/or foal and/or in utero foal arising out of any undertaking by WE. Further, Owner shall exonerate, protect, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless WE and its Lessors(s) of the mare(s), from and against any and all liabilities, expenses, claims, fines, penalties, costs, attorney's fees, and damages of every kind including, without limitation, those arising out of or attributed, directly or indirectly, to or resulting from any and all negligent acts or omissions of Donor Mare Owner, or of any person while the mare(s) are under Donor Mare Owner's possession or control.
7. The person signing this Contract represents and warrants that he/she is the true and lawful owner of the Donor Mare, or if not the owner, then has actual authority to act as Owner's agent for purposes of entering into this Contract, and to make any and all decisions regarding the animal and its veterinary care.
8. All charges will be due within 30 days of receipt of invoice and if account becomes delinquent, interest at a rate of 1.5% per month will be applied to account and all further services can be terminated at the discretion of WE until account is settled. **Owner authorizes WE to charge credit card on file for all services related to aspiration and implantation of ICSI embryos.**
9. Owner agrees to pay all charges in full before removing the donor mare.

Signature of Donor Mare Owner or Agent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**ICSI MARE INFORMATION SHEET**

**1. Primary person to contact regarding this mare:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Stallion to be used for ICSI:**

Stallion 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Stallion 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Desired embryo transfer facility: PLEASE FILL OUT DON'T SKIP!!!**

**WEBC**

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. On arrival please provide copy of:**

- Completed Weatherford Equine Oocyte Contract
- Completed ICSI Contract for lab of your choice
- Credit Card Authorization Form (see page 6)

\*Please note that semen must be shipped to the ICSI lab of your choice for injection. Most stallion owners/stations will not authorize the use of semen for your mare's oocytes without a completed stallion breeding contract and paid stud fee. Please ensure the stallion owner/station has all necessary documents on file to avoid delays in injecting your mare's oocytes.



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**CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM**

Name on account on at Weatherford Equine: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as it appears on credit card): \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type:      Visa            Mastercard            Discover            American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\*By signing this document, I authorize Weatherford Equine Breeding Center to process my credit card for services rendered.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_