WEATHERFORD EQUINE BREEDING CENTER
6375 MINERAL WELLS HWY • WEATHERFORD, TX 76088
PHONE: 817-594-9181
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 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 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 or other transfer facility of your choice. Please note that **this does not include the price of a pregnant recipient**, which will be dependent on the transfer facility you choose.

While Weatherford Equine Breeding Center has a recipient herd, WEBC is **not** obligated to provide recipient mares at any time for mares aspirated at our facility. If WEBC is chosen as the embryo transfer facility, WEBC does **not** guarantee access to recipients as all potential transfers are dependent upon factors such as availability on the day of embryo creation and size of donor mare and stallion. It is highly encouraged for all clients to consider having a secondary embryo transfer facility lined up in case a recipient cannot be accommodated.

Itemized service prices are enclosed in the WE Oocyte Fee Schedule. For more information on respective laboratory fees, please refer to the ICSI contract for the ICSI lab being used.

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2026 OOCYTE FEE SCHEDULE

Procedure	Unit Price
Aspiration Fees	
Mature oocyte aspiration*	$650
Immature oocyte aspiration *	$1,200
Combined pre-ovulatory/immature oocyte aspiration*	$1,350
Post Mortem Fees	
Ovary dissection/oocyte collection	$815
Shipping Fees	
Courier (EquiEmbryo)	$120
FedEx using active control incubator	$325
Airline using active control incubator	$450

*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

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Weatherford Equine Oocyte Aspiration & Liability Release Agreement

Client:_____ Donor Mare: _____

Billing Address: _____ Primary Phone Number: _____

Primary Email Address: _____

DEFINITION
"Client" means the individual or entity requesting, authorizing, and financially responsible for the transvaginal oocyte aspiration procedure and related services, whether the legal Owner of the mare or a Lessee acting with authority.

Agreement Terms

1. **Purpose:** Weatherford Equine (WE) agrees to perform transvaginal oocyte aspiration (TVA) on the mare listed above. All viable oocytes will be shipped to the ICSI laboratory selected by the Client for further processing and potential embryo creation.
2. **Fees:** Client agrees to pay all aspiration, shipping, and veterinary fees per the current WE Oocyte Fee Schedule. Payment is due at the time of service unless otherwise arranged. Accounts 30 days past due will incur 1.5% monthly interest. WE may charge any card on file for unpaid balances and may suspend services until payment is received.
3. **Acknowledgment of Risk:** Client and Owner understand that TVA and related reproductive procedures carry inherent risks, including but not limited to infection, bleeding, rectal tear, peritonitis, anesthesia or sedation complications, aspiration-related complications, or death. These risks are uncommon but can be serious or life-threatening. Client and Owner acknowledge WE has explained the procedure and potential complications and that all questions have been answered.
4. **Release of Liability:** Client and Owner agree that Weatherford Equine, its owners, veterinarians, employees, and agents shall not be held responsible for any disease, injury, or death of the mare, embryo, or foal, whether in utero or after birth, arising out of or related to these services. Client and Owner releases, indemnifies, and holds harmless Weatherford Equine and its agents from any and all claims, losses, damages, or expenses (including attorney's fees) resulting from these services, whether due to negligence or otherwise.
5. **Leased Mares:** If the donor mare is leased, both the legal Owner and Client (Lessee) must sign this agreement. If the donor is leased, the Lessee is the Client requesting and authorizing the procedure and is primarily responsible for all fees, decisions, and care related to TVA and any resulting complications. The legal Owner remains jointly and severally responsible for all financial obligations and for any injury or death of the mare arising from these services.
6. **No Guarantee:** WE makes no guarantees, warranties, or representations as to the success of oocyte recovery, ICSI fertilization, embryo development, pregnancy or live foal outcome.
7. **Care and Decision Authority:** The person signing below affirms they are the true Owner or have authority to act as Owner's agent regarding all veterinary care decisions for this mare.
8. **Governing Law:** This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, and any disputes shall be resolved in Parker County, Texas.

Owner or Authorized Agent: _____ Date: _____

(If Leased) Lessee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Weatherford Equine Representative: _____ 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 (select one of the following)

- Weatherford Equine Recipient
- Owner's Personal Recipient

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 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 any and all services rendered including interest fees accrued due to non-payment.

Name: _____

Signature:_____ Date: _____

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