



## GPCA Health Committee



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### 2009 NATIONAL SPECIALTY SEMINAR “BACK TO THE FUTURE: FROZEN SEMEN/CLONE CELLS”

The seminar was presented by Carol Bardwick from the Canine Cryobank, Inc. Ms. Bardwick reviewed the history of frozen semen breedings. She sees a great future for the use of frozen semen as it allows for international breedings and save the bitch from being shipped.

At the Canine Cryobank they have had an 80% success rate using a local primary care animal hospital for the inseminations. They attribute the success to the practices utilized by Canine Cryobank. The semen they have used has come from a variety of facilities in a number of countries. The system that they use to thaw the semen contributes to the success rate.

One component in the success rate is the use of laboratory quality EIA (Enzyme Immune Assay) progesterone testing by their facility. They feel that no more than three tests are needed for a normally cycling bitch. They begin testing on the day 5, 6 or 7 of the cycle and continue periodic testing until the bitch's progesterone is equal to or greater than 9 and do not test on a daily basis. They utilize surgical implantation of the semen and schedule the inseminations at a primary care facility. The inseminations are scheduled early in the morning when the clinic is quiet to reduce stress on the bitch. The bitch also goes home as soon as she is ambulatory. They see a bright future for the use of non specialized veterinary clinics in surgical inseminations with reliable progesterone testing and stress free surgical inseminations.

Ms. Bardwick also touched on the process of cloning. While it is quite an expensive procedure now, she sees the price eventually coming down to more affordable ranges. She also sees the possibility of the use of frozen semen as a source for cells to be used in the cloning process as there are leukocytes and epithelial cells in the frozen semen that could be used in the cloning process.

She also touched on the problem of fading puppy syndrome. They have found that frozen plasma is the only natural immune booster for newborn puppies. More information on the use of frozen plasma and the other services of the Canine Cryobank can be found by visiting their website, [www.Caninecryobank.com](http://www.Caninecryobank.com).

Report prepared by Flo Laicher, GPCA Health Committee Chairperson