

# PIEPER RANCH, INC.

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Re: Haul In Mares & Cooled Transported Semen Information

Dear Mare Owner,

Another breeding season is ahead and we appreciate you booking your mare to Playgun or Texas Kicker. We offer cooled semen availability on a limited basis to approved reproductive facilities and can recommend a number of veterinarians that we have worked with in various locations. Semen from both Playgun and Texas Kicker cools very well and our CTS clients have had excellent conception rates when their mares are managed by an experience veterinarian.

Several owners have requested hauling their mare in or picking up semen on a collection day due to special health or soundness conditions of their mare &/or foal. We are happy to accommodate these requests on an availability basis also. In order to give you the best possible service we want make all mare owners aware of our **priority policies**.

Mares in residence at Pieper Ranch are evaluated daily by teasing, palpation and ultrasound during heat. Embryo mares, haul in mares and CTS (cooled transported semen) mares should be evaluated by a reproductive veterinarian daily to prepare and manage for optimum breeding success.

## **Our order of priority on breeding days:**

1. Resident on-site mares that are managed and prepared to breed based on Dr. David Hartman's evaluation and ET mares that Dr. Hartman manages at his clinic.
2. Haul In mares managed by an approved reproductive facility (Dr. Hartman will want to palpate / ultrasound mare prior to insemination)
3. Mares under the care of an approved reproductive facility that have courier pick up semen.
4. CTS mares that are managed at a reproductive facility or under the management of a reproductive veterinarian.

Mares bred "on site" immediately following semen collection are inseminated with a minimum of 500 million progressively motile cells per insemination. The cooled semen dose requires an initially greater total number of cells per shipment due to the decrease in motility that is normally expected during the standard shipping process. The percent motility should be determined by the receiving facility and applied to total cell count when the collection is evaluated. We prepare an adequate dose on all CTS shipments to compensate for shipping variables and possible flight delays. The average motility on both stallions at time of collection is excellent, consistently 75% or better. With proper packaging, handling and transportation techniques, we expect your shipment to maintain acceptable motility at evaluations done at 24 to 48 hours post collection.

We anticipate potential handling and transportation problems associated with shipping semen again this year due to ongoing airline security restrictions. Pieper Ranch has done everything possible to comply with airline requirements, including background checks and “known shipper” applications in order to avoid unnecessary opening and examination of equitainer contents. Unfortunately, airline officials cannot guarantee that equitainers traveling on commercial flights will not be subject to security checks. The incidence of opened, disassembled equitainers and incorrectly re packaged contents continues to be a concern. These circumstances will affect cooling curves and could be detrimental to semen motility. Also, clients who do not have direct flight availability from DFW to the final destination airport have experienced occasional missed connections and delayed arrivals. The best service departing DFW is American Airlines or United Airlines on a direct flight to the final destination.

DFW Airport is approximately 100 miles from Pieper Ranch. We will arrange for the flight and the courier service to the airport. These costs are included in your CTS shipping fee charge. Most reproductive facilities have a courier service available if you are unable to pick up the equitainer yourself. We do not charge a deposit for the equitainer, but request that you return it promptly along with the required AQHA paper work and completed semen evaluation form.

Fed Ex/UPS is a slower method of sending semen to your repro facility. Their service is not available for some Friday (due to Saturday delivery availability in your area) and all Saturday & Sunday collection day requests. Added scheduling and management at the receiving end will be necessary to successfully utilize cooled semen shipped by Fed Ex/UPS. Your input on our CTS evaluation form that accompanies each shipment will help us to monitor the success of various shipping methods.

We will do our best to fulfill your cooled semen needs. **We encourage you or your mare manager/veterinarian to communicate with us frequently regarding your mare’s palpation and ultrasound checks. The best way to assure availability of semen is for us to follow your mare’s palpations as closely as if she were here at the ranch. Do not administer prostin without palpating the mare to determine what she has on her ovaries when the prostin is given. The length of time from her prostin shot to the date that she will need semen will vary greatly depending on what she has on her ovaries. Please help us to be prepared for your shipment by communicating this information. Mares treated with super ovulation drugs are NOT good candidates to receive cooled semen due to their tendency to not ovulate properly. We will work with you the best we can, but it is imperative that you communicate with us as you prepare your mare to breed.**

If you have not already provided the shipping contact phone numbers and information of your reproductive facility and the completed “pre - ship” form that was sent with your contract, please return that information to our office as soon as possible.

Please forward our collection day calendar for the 2008 breeding season to the designated facility and contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda Pieper  
Pieper Ranch, Inc.

Darby Dorman  
Breeding Manager