



## **Family Friends Veterinary Hospital Statement on Responsible Breeding**

To our valued breeding clients and those interested in becoming breeders,

Our reproductive team has formulated a set of responsible standards/philosophies to better provide high quality and informed decision making about canine reproduction. Our main priority will always be the health and well-being of our patients. We hope to have a conversation with you and assist in bettering your breeds by producing sound, healthy, high-quality, and well-loved dogs.

To start implementing these breeding guidelines as standard recommendations, a breeding agreement will be filled out at the first progesterone appointment/first collection appointment and each future breeding. We feel breeding is a privilege and opportunity to better the breed and pass down respectable genetics and behaviors.

### **Breeding Consultation:**

For clients and dogs new to breeding, we will require a comprehensive exam and client conversation about breeding soundness for the patient you intend to breed. We recommend our patients be in great health, appropriate age, health tested based on breed, up to date with routine care and prevention, and have appropriate temperament. We will not breed dogs under 1 year of age and or on her first heat cycle. We want to help you make educated decisions and be as successful as possible in your breeding endeavors.

### **Routine Care/Preventative Medicine:**

It is important for both our breeding males and females to be kept in good health to promote a healthy pregnancy and healthy, strong puppies. Breeding dogs will be required to be up to date on the core vaccines (DAPP and Rabies), fecal exam, and annual heartworm test. (Note: titer testing for DAPP is acceptable.) If this routine care is done at your primary veterinarian, please make sure records are sent to us and kept current before breeding or in season. Immunity from vaccinations for infectious disease and prevention medication of both ecto- and endo-parasites is crucial in maintaining a healthy breeding program.

### **Health Testing:**

We are happy to offer the following services: OFA hips, elbows, patella, thyroid, and Penn Hip testing for your preliminary breeding health testing. We are also able to help coordinate OFA Cardiac with a board-certified cardiologist monthly at our office. Please see the Canine Health Information Center ([caninehealthinfo.org](http://caninehealthinfo.org)) or your specific breed club's website if you are unsure of the necessary requirements. We understand not all health testing is always black and



white, and we reserve the right to decline reproductive services if there is concern for genetic or heritable disease (heart murmurs, hip dysplasia, heritable congenital defects, etc.) being passed to puppies.

## **Ovulation Timing/Breeding Service Requirements:**

Timing is everything when it comes to breeding. We would like to see your breeding female for a first progesterone appointment approximately 5-9 days after the first sign of heat (vulvar swelling, discharge). Please call us to get scheduled as soon as you notice these first signs of estrus. During this appointment, we will perform a physical exam to address any current health problems, perform a vaginal cytology to check for a healthy heat, and draw blood for progesterone testing. Brucellosis testing is always recommended before every breeding and can be performed at this first appointment. Please note that this first progesterone visit is NOT the appropriate time to update vaccinations due to upcoming breeding. Schedule a wellness exam at least 2 weeks prior to any heat cycles intended for breeding.

## **Surgical Insemination:**

For the safety of the bitch, to qualify for a surgical insemination, a few requirements must be met. A surgical insemination will be discussed as an option if there have been two missed breedings with adequate semen or using frozen semen with one prior successful. A transcervical insemination will be viewed as the superior alternative.

## **Success of Reproductive Services:**

Breeding is never a guarantee. Our hopes are that if we provide all the testing/tools and your pet is healthy, you will have breeding success. We realize that sometimes pregnancy outcomes don't occur for no explainable reason. We will strive to help fertility success and when unsuccessful we will focus our efforts on getting you more answers or testing as to why.

## **Denial of Reproductive Services:**

Please know that while reproductive services are offered, we do reserve the right to deny these services for a variety of reasons.

If you choose not to follow the above recommendations and continue breeding, then ovulation timing (progesterone) can still be performed following first progesterone appointment, but Family Friends Veterinary Hospital will not assist/perform the artificial insemination.



# Family Friends Veterinary Hospital

6555 28th St SE 🐾 Grand Rapids, MI 49546 🐾 (616)575-6520 🐾 [familyfriendsvet.com](http://familyfriendsvet.com)

We will continue to see patients with a reproductive emergency or manage their pregnancy (once confirmed pregnant), regardless of their ability to meet the breeding agreement guidelines.

## **Helpful Reproductive Links:**

American Kennel Club – <https://www.akc.org/>

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals – <https://www.ofa.org/> CHIC – Breed specific testing recommendations – <https://www.ofa.org/browse-by-breed>

Canine Health Information Center - [caninehealthinfo.org](http://caninehealthinfo.org)