Surgical Implanting: Is it for you?

Have you spent days and nights waiting for your favorite dog to start whelping but not known the exact date she will start? Don't you wish there was a more exact way to know when your dog will whelp! Many breeders of Bulldogs, Frenchies, and problematic breeding females are turning to surgical implanting to help manage there breeding program. Surgical implantation is the process of injecting semen into the uterine horns of a receptive female to get higher pregnancy rates, better litter sizes, and accurate whelping dates. Surgical implanting is not for everyone so hopefully you will learn some about the process and when it should be used vs. not be used. Surgical implantation seems like a very dif cult process when described but truly is not all that tough to catch on to. The goal of the entire procedure is to implant semen 48 hours after the female has ovulated. This gives us the

best chance at peak fertility and higher litter numbers. The process of surgical implantation begins just like any breeding. Detecting when the female comes in heat starts the process. When this happens (swelling/bleeding present), the date should be noted and then schedule an appointment at the vet in approx. 5 days. During this rst vet visit, a vaginal swab will be done to try to determine if the dog is close to estrus. Typically during this rst visit, a blood sample will be taken to determine the serum progesterone level. Blood samples will be taken every 2-3 days until the serum progesterone level reaches 4-10, this is the day of ovulation. When it has been determined that the dog has ovulated, peak fertility is 48 hours after a progesterone result of 4-10 is noted. The surgery to implant the semen is a relatively short procedure in which an approx. 1 inch incision will be made, the uterine horns will be found and then the male will be collected and the semen then injected into each uterine horn. The incision is closed and a c-section (typically) will be scheduled for 60-61 days later. Surgical implantation eliminates many of the potential human error reasons for infertility such as: poor heat detection, inexperience or poor AI technique, cervical problems and recessed or twisted vulvas. Below are some of the pro's vs. con's for surgical implantation. I hope that this will help you with your breeding management!

Pro's for implantation:

- Known whelping date
- Higher Pregnancy rates
- Larger litter size
- You don't need to be a skilled AI person

Con's for implantation

Higher cost (typical implant including blood work is approx. $250-$300)

*Trips to the vet. (Average of 4 trips during the testing stage)

*An additional surgery. (With the small incision very little to no additional scarring will occur.)

Surgical implanting is a good way to help professional breeders keep up with the fast paced, high technology world we live in. It's not for everyone, but for breeds that are difficult to breed and whelp, surgical implanting can be a lifesaver for both the dam, puppies, and breeder.

For more information about surgical implanting, contact Dr. Harkey at All About Pets Veterinary Clinic, Purdy, MO. 417-442-PETS (7387).