



British Equine Veterinary Association

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Dear Colleague,

RE: BEVA List of Practices Experienced in the Insemination of Fresh, Chilled & Frozen or Fresh & Chilled Semen

BEVA is dedicated to supporting those members of our profession who work in the field of equine reproduction and by so-doing, maximising and safeguarding the welfare of the horse. In 2007 BEVA embarked upon an ongoing campaign to raise awareness amongst the horse-owning public of the existence of the BEVA lists and of the benefits of using a listed veterinary practice to perform A.I. As part of that campaign, BEVA funds and arranges an advertisement in Horse and Hound magazine each year including the names and contact details of all BEVA A.I.-listed Practices. We are also in regular discussion with DEFRA, BEF and HBLB on your behalf.

As you are probably aware, the issue of incorrect importation of semen was highlighted again in 2020. BEVA have been in discussion with the relevant bodies, and the horse owning public were informed of the health risks associated with inappropriate importation via an article in the Horse and Hound and other publications.

With these aims, BEVA believes that it is very important that vets and veterinary practices included on the BEVA A.I. List practice to the highest standard. BEVA will run specific A.I. courses in 2021 including "Practical A.I. – the essentials", and the "A.I. Discussion Forum" - please keep an eye out for these on our website. All veterinary surgeons who wish to be included on the BEVA A.I. List are expected to attend one of the BEVA A.I. courses at least once every four years (previously every three years). Failure to do so will result in you being removed from the list. This does not mean that you cannot undertake A.I., simply that you will not be promoted as part of the BEVA approved list. As you know A.I. Technicians, once qualified, have no further assessment, monitoring or governance. We must regularly remind our clients and the rest of the equine world of these differences.

IMPORTANT - SEMEN CERTIFICATION

Requirement under section (vii) on the application to join/remain on the BEVA A.I. list, in which the signatory declares that: **"Before each and every insemination the inseminating Veterinary Surgeon verifies the origin and health status of the semen to be inseminated, as specified in the HBLB Codes of Practice (2020 and later versions), and that no semen is inseminated unless its health status is documented"**. As you will be aware, there have been a number of incidents of infectious venereal disease in the UK over the past few years. EVA and CEM caused by infected imported semen remain a particular concern. Those of you who have attended recent A.I Discussion Forums will already know that BEVA was in on-going discussions with APHA and Defra about whether it is necessary for the health certificate accompanying semen imported into the UK to be an original. Defra considered this at the highest level, and the unambiguous answer which we had been given was that the certificate (i) must be original (not photocopied) and (ii) must arrive with the semen (not afterwards). Following significant lobbying by BEVA and other providers in 2019 Defra have agreed that electronic copies of the original health certificates ARE now acceptable provided they



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are followed by the paper copy within a few days. The Netherlands are currently (Oct 2020) an anomaly as they have ceased production of paper copy certification for semen exportation.

Please refer to the BEVA website for updated information as required.

BEVA has made Defra very aware that inseminating Vets are often placed in an awkward position. Notwithstanding Brexit, it has been agreed with Defra that clear, practical and consistent guidance is required before the start of the next breeding season.

REPORTING

The need for inseminators (including Vets) to verify the health certificate (or copy of the original) which accompanies a semen shipment before insemination is clearly laid out in the HBLB Codes of Practice (available at <https://codes.hblb.org.uk/index.php/page/157>), and it is an absolute requirement for all BEVA AI-listed Vets that they comply with those Codes.

Those Veterinary Surgeons, who would like to be included on the BEVA A.I. List, should return the attached application/retention form, along with your Retainer fee (**£60 Fresh, Chilled & Frozen, or £40 Fresh & Chilled only per practice made payable to BEVA Ltd) to the BEVA office**, in order that they may be added to the list for the 2021 stud season. Please make cheques payable to: BEVA Ltd and send to: BEVA, Mulberry House, 31 Market Street, Fordham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5LQ. For payment by Credit or Debit Card please call the office on 01638 723555. BACS payments can be made to the following account: Clydesdale Bank, Sort Code: 826315 Account No: 30014722 Please use practice name followed by A.I. List 2021 as your reference.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER AND ATTEND THE BEVA AI COURSES WHEN REQUIRED – PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU PUT A REMINDER IN YOUR CALENDAR – BEVA WILL NOT CHASE UP NON-REGISTRANTS AND THEY WILL BE OMITTED FROM THE PUBLISHED LIST.

If you have any comments / problems relating to AI or reproduction generally, please don't hesitate to contact me on: huw.griffiths@theleh.co.uk

With best wishes,

Huw Griffiths BSc BVSc Cert ESM MRCVS
BEVA Clinical Practice Committee