

CUSTOM BULL COLLECTION

Semen collection is the process of collecting sperm cells from a male animal, processing and freezing them into straws, ready for AI.

To ensure a smooth and successful semen collection process, should you decide to proceed with artificial insemination or semen banking, you must first ensure your bull is in good health and free from any reproductive or general health issues. It is HIGHLY recommended to first get your bull's semen evaluated for quality, motility, concentration, and morphology.

Preparing for collection:

- Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian for semen testing with morphology at least 1 month prior to custom collection – we will share the results with you and discuss bull's viability for collection.
- Ensure vaccinations are up to date well before your planned custom collection (>2 months prior). These vaccinations may include tick fever, pesti, 7in1, vibrio and BEF.
- If this is your first time collecting a bull for AI, ensure you have scheduled a talk with your veterinarian about success rates.
- Our team will need to organise the collection kits from the processing lab (we use Beef Breeding Services) at least a week before the appointment.
- In the days leading up to collection, keep your bull in a clean and comfortable environment to minimize stress and distractions.
- Avoid breeding or exposing your bull to female for at least 48 hours before the collection to increase semen quality and quantity.

Things to consider:

- How many straws are you hoping to get?
- Where do you plan on storing them? Options may include storing them at the processing facility (additional charge) or transporting them to an alternate storage facility.
 - We use Beef Breeding Services

Semen Collection Procedure:

- The collection must be a morning appointment and scheduled mid-week, in order for overnight TOLL delivery and processing of the semen at lab. Alternatively, you may drive the package to Brisbane.
- The appointment will take approximately an hour.
- **Ensure you have a table and hot water available for the veterinarian to use.**
- Once the bull is placed in the crush (must have head bail and kick gate), the veterinarian will use an electroejaculation technique to collect the semen.
 - This requires the use of a rectal probe to stimulate ejaculation. The semen is then collected using a specialised collection device.
- The clinic will then package the semen and freight it to a processing lab.
- On arrival at the lab – they check the semen quality and repeat morphology testing to ensure the semen is of a high enough quality to process.
- They will then freeze the semen and thaw it after 24hours to ensure it is still viable after freezing.
- If the sperm collected isn't viable on arrival, or after thawing, please be aware the lab will still charge a processing fee. If this occurs, you can make the choice to try again.

Invoicing:

- You will receive an initial invoice on the day of collection for the work involved with collecting and shipping of semen to the lab.
- Once processed at the lab, you will receive an additional invoice for their processing fees.

EXAMPLE COSTS INVOLVED

Semen test with morphology (1 bull) \$152 + travel (\$2.30/km)

Bull collection \$250 (/bull) + travel (\$2.30/km)

Lab processing fees starting at \$150-\$250

- Includes: kits, freight, lab morphology testing
- Excludes: fees if semen fails, cost of straws and storage (contact lab for specific prices)

Storage fees: please contact either the processing centre or alternate storage facility to obtain accurate prices.

Please note that successful semen collection can depend on several factors, including your bull's individual temperament and reproductive health. Our veterinary team is here to support you throughout the process and answer any questions you may have.

If you are interested in scheduling a semen collection session or have any inquiries about the process, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are excited to assist you in enhancing your breeding program and supporting your bull's reproductive health.