

THAWING/WARMING SEMEN

❖ Frozen Semen



Frozen semen is transported in tanks filled with dry Nitrogen (Dewar) to keep the samples frozen. Dewar come in different shapes and sizes, depending on size and amount of dry Nitrogen, sperm samples can be kept frozen (upright) for up to 18 days.

Semen is frozen in little 10ml vials which are mounted on



'canes' – these are metal rods with mounts along their length (to hold the vials) and with a hook top. The hook fits on to the mouth of the Dewar to keep the samples upright. Semen may also be moved in 'straws'.



• Thawing Frozen Semen

Do not remove or thaw the semen until ready to use, thawed semen cannot be refrozen without killing some sperm cells.

When ready to inseminate:

- Remove vials from canes inside the Dewar. Take care with this as dry Nitrogen is very cold and can cause frostbite if skin touches inside of the tank
- Leave out at room temperature for about 10 minutes or until vial is no longer frosty.
- Hold gently in your hand (fingers wrapped around vial) for another 10 – 15 minutes to bring the semen to body temperature.
- Gently unscrew the cap of the vial to use the sample.

For how to carry out insemination see **Home Insemination**