

What is motility and what should I know about it?

The most commonly used measure of semen quality is sperm motility, but what exactly does that mean and how is it determined?

Fertility is inherent to each canine as an individual and motility is just one attribute of sperm function. Fertilization is a complex process that requires numerous functional attributes of both sperm and egg. Therefore, the true fertility of any semen - fresh, cooled or frozen - can only be determined by properly timed insemination of reproductively healthy canines. Nonetheless, sperm motility is still one of the best indicators we have for predicting success in a breeding program. If the post-thaw motility is quite low (10-20%) it does not mean the dose provided for insemination is bad. If the semen was frozen by a reputable facility the low motility has been accounted for and the dose has been packaged accordingly. ICSB for example using vials as doses, they package each vial for the breed and every vial has the same number of sperm cells that can do the job no matter what the post thaw motility. As canine with a post-thaw motility of 35% may be equally as fertile as one with 85% sperm.