

Minitube Newsletter September 2010

Assistance Dogs

Minitube recently had the privilege of attending the Assistance Dogs International, Inc convention held in Toronto. Dr. John Verstegen DVM, PhD, *Director of Minitube International Small Animal Reproduction* spoke on "Optimizing canine reproduction: breeding management and artificial insemination". Many Assistance Dog organizations have selective breeding programs designed for their specific needs and Dr. Verstegen's presentation provided timely information on the benefits of assisted reproduction.

Assistance Dogs International, Inc. is a coalition of not for profit organizations that train and place Assistance Dogs. The purpose of ADI is to improve the areas of training, placement, and utilization of Assistance Dogs as well as staff and volunteer education. Members of ADI meet regularly to share ideas, attend seminars, and conduct business regarding such things as educating the public about Assistance Dogs, and the legal rights of people with disabilities partnered with Assistance Dogs, setting standards and establishing guidelines and ethics for the training of these dogs.

Assistance Dogs not only provide a specific service to their handlers, but also greatly enhance their lives with a new sense of freedom and independence. The three types of Assistance Dogs are GUIDE DOGS, HEARING DOGS and SERVICE DOGS.

Guide Dogs assist blind and visually impaired people by avoiding obstacles, stopping at curbs and steps, and negotiating traffic. Labrador and Golden Retrievers and German Shepherd dogs and other large breeds are carefully bred, socialized and raised for over one year by volunteers, then trained for 4 to 6 months by professional trainers before being placed with their blind handlers.

Hearing Dogs assist deaf and hard of hearing individuals by alerting them to a variety of household sounds. Hearing Dogs are generally mixed breeds acquired from animal shelters and are small to medium in size.

Service Dogs assist people with disabilities other than vision or hearing impairment. Service Dogs are either rescued from animal shelters or bred in selective breeding programs and raised by volunteers prior to their

formal training. Most Service Dogs are Golden Retrievers or Labrador Retrievers.

Minitube's participation at the convention opened exciting perspectives to combine Minitube's optimized biotechnology of reproduction with the societal role of Assistance Dogs International and should help to satisfy the increasing needs of persons with disabilities for high quality trained assistance dogs.

Visit www.assistedogsinternational.org for more information.



Successful Seminars held in Breslau

On June 18th and 19th a combination of 17 Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians from Ontario and Nova Scotia took part in the first Minitube International Artificial Insemination and Semen Freezing seminar held in Canada. Guide Dogs Canada generously allowed us to use their facility where both lectures and hands on wet labs were led by Dr John Verstegen DVM PhD. The participants had an opportunity to collect dogs, evaluate and freeze semen and inseminate bitches including the fast growing transcervical insemination technique (TCI) recently improved by Minitube. In addition there were informative sessions that gave the theory behind the practical application.

The workshop was so well received that another one will be held in the Vancouver area in October. Details of this are posted in the Upcoming Events.



"A ton of information, all very valuable and well explained. Enjoyed!"
~ Dr. Rasa Levenstein

Product Focus - Canine Collection Funnel System



Advantages

- Allows evaluation of the penis while being collected
- Colour coded funnels to divide the different ejaculate fractions. Dividing the fractions is always useful in preventing unwanted bacteria and contaminations by prostatic fluid.
- Spill-proof funnel design prevents accidents during the collection process
- Non-spermicidal materials are easy to clean, sterilize and re-use
- Samples immediately ready for analysis, centrifugation or extension

Upcoming Events:

Don't Miss these Unique Opportunities!

Canine Reproduction Seminar

Canine Semen Preservation, A.I. and Breeding Management

~Keys to a Successful Reproduction Program~
(Open for Veterinarians or Veterinary Technicians only)



Presented by Dr. John Verstegen, DVM, PhD, DECAR
Director of Small Animal Reproduction - Minitube International
World renowned canine reproduction expert

**DON'T MISS THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY!
CALL NOW FOR DETAILS - SPACE IS LIMITED!**

October 27th & 28th - Vancouver Area
Lectures and Wet Labs

Collection . Chilling . Freezing . Breeding Management
TCI Demonstration

Successful Artificial Insemination



Semen Collection
Semen Preservation
Insemination Techniques



Saturday, October 30th, 3-5 pm
Lower Mainland Dog Fanciers, Tradex Centre
\$10.00 per registrant

Minitube reserves the right to change or cancel seminar dates

Presented by Dr. John Verstegen, DVM, PhD, DECAR
World Renowned Expert
Director of Small Animal Reproduction Minitube



**DON'T MISS THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
REGISTER NOW - SPACE IS LIMITED!**

Contact Minitube at 1-800-500-7978 or
canada@minitube.com to register for seminar



Minitube reserves the right to change or cancel seminar dates

TCI Seminar

REGISTER NOW - SPACE IS LIMITED!

TCI (Transcervical Insemination)

Limited Space Available - Veterinarians Only

November 16th, 2010
at the International Biotech Center
in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

The course features techniques developed and presented by:
Dr. John Verstegen, DVM, PhD, DECAR
Director of Minitube International Small Animal Reproduction

Call 1-800-500-7978 or e-mail
canada@minitube.com for more information



Dr. Verstegen with participants at a Minitube Seminar June 18th and 19th 2010