

Barren Mares

Should a mare go through a breeding season and not conceive, then some investigations should be performed to try and find out why, before she is left to go through the winter.

If she has only been covered by one stallion and has not conceived to him previously, it is always worth changing to another stallion. Genetic mismatches leading to unviable pregnancies, which are lost in the first couple of weeks are thought to be very common. If a mare is covered three times by one stallion, without success and she conceives the first time with a different stallion, it does not prove there was a genetic mis-match between the initial pairing but strongly suggests it and it would not be sensible to try and repeat that initial pairing.

If a mare has not had a cervical swab during the season then this should be performed when she is next in-season. If no obvious reason is found thus far, then an endometrial biopsy should be taken. This is done when the mare is in season, an instrument is introduced through the cervix and a pinch of tissue is taken from the uterine lining. This is sent off to the laboratory for analysis. Depending on the laboratory findings a treatment protocol can be formulated. Once that treatment has been administered and sufficient time to allow the treatment to have it's effect, the biopsy should be repeated to make sure it has had it's desired effect.

If the biopsy does not produce a reason for the infertility, then an endoscope can be used to look at the entire inside of the uterus which may provide a diagnosis for the infertility.