

## Preparing A Buck For Semen Collection

Following are some reminders on ways to improve the semen quality of your buck when it's time for collection:

- Males need to be in good health, in a good plane of nutrition, on a mineral supplement program, a low parasite load and hooves kept trimmed.
- It is recommended that collections are performed during early fall to early spring (breeding season), to acquire the best quality semen samples for processing and storing.
- When the time for semen collection is getting close:
  - Let your buck breed a few does one week prior to the planned semen collection.
  - After the does are covered, rest your buck in a pen by himself for a few days (2-3 days) before is taken to be collected. This procedure will allow for accumulation of fresher sperm cells in his epididymis, and avoid the "clean up" semen collections.

If your buck has been breeding does out in a pasture and is not accustomed to having anybody nearby while he is breeding, the semen collection may require a few attempts for training.

Collections will be easier and faster if your buck is accustomed to people nearby or on a lead while he breed does. This may not be necessary because some bucks are indifferent to the presence of humans during collection. With some patience, almost any buck will eventually give a good sample when teased with a female in good heat.

It needs to be considered that sperm production (spermatogenesis) is susceptible to outside influences such as elevated temperature, humidity, season of the year, nutrition, injuries, transportation, etc; and also to internal influences such as diseases, fever, and certain medications such as steroids. Therefore, stressful situations should be avoided weeks prior to collection allowing enough time to become acclimated. If your buck gets sick, consult with your veterinarian, you may need to postpone semen collection for a few weeks.

Preparation and planning will increase the efficiency and therefore the profitability of semen collections from your buck!