

## A Fact Sheet for Mares Gifted to Equibreed as Embryo Transfer Surrogates

Thank you for considering embryo transfer surrogacy as an option for your mare. This fact sheet aims to answer some of the questions regarding the gifting of recipients, if you have further questions please contact our office.

### Examples of situations that owners encounter that often give rise to consideration of sending them as a recipient

- End of competition career or injury
- Change in owner circumstances
- No further use as a broodmare

### What criteria do Equibreed UK consider when selecting recipients?

- Age – mares must be between 2-12 years of age
- Size – mares must be 15.0Hh or over
- Health - mares must be in good condition
- Temperament - mares must be easy to catch, and good-natured on the ground

### What will happen to my mare whilst she is an embryo transfer recipient?

The recipients are kept in a group, to simulate a herd situation as far as possible. We aim to keep their nutritional status as high as possible, as this gives a higher likelihood that they will get pregnant when an embryo is transferred.

Their reproductive cycles are monitored, and they are synchronized with a donor mare when it becomes apparent that a recipient is needed. Few drugs as possible are used, but occasionally they are given prostaglandin to bring them into season, or an ovulatory drug to cause them to ovulate on a specific day.

Once she has ovulated, we will wait the requisite 8 days before flushing the donor mare. If an embryo is recovered, this is then transferred to the recipient as soon as possible.

Following transfer, the recipient is scanned a week later to find out whether the embryo has taken and is pregnant.

Pregnant recipients are scanned at 14, 24, and 42 days of gestation.

Once they reach 42 days of pregnancy, the mare is taken to the home of the client, where she will foal down.

### Can I come and see my mare whilst she is an embryo transfer recipient?

It is possible for recipient mares to be visited whilst they are at Equibreed UK, however once the embryo pregnancy is 42 days, they head to their client home where they spend the rest of gestation and are foaled down. Due to client confidentiality, we are unable to provide details of where they are in livery or organise for previous owners to visit the mare. Once the foal is weaned and the mare returned to Equibreed it is then possible to organise visitation.

### What happens to the recipient mares when they are too old to carry any more foals?

We are happy to get in touch with you given this situation to ask whether you would like to take re-possession of the mare.

If not, we will discuss potential options with you then, including rehoming and euthanasia. We will do our best to inform you as soon as possible should your mare pass away whilst being an embryo transfer recipient.

### What do I need to bring with the mare, if I do go ahead and offer her as a recipient?

The mare needs to be up to date with vaccinations, foot trimming, worming, have her breeding swabs and bloods completed (for CEM, EVA, EIA, EHV, and Strangles) and she needs to arrive with her passport. You will be responsible for transferring the ownership in to the name of EquibreedUK Ltd (Amber Clutton-Brock).

Any breeding history for the mare is very useful. She does not need anything else as we provide all rugs, headcollars, etc. that the mares require. Once she arrives and we begin to work with her, if there are any concerns, we will alert you to them as soon as possible.

### What happens if my mare does not take well to surrogacy?

We are unfortunately unable to keep mares that do not take well to being a recipient. It is rare that mares do not mother their foals well, but this does occasionally happen. In both situations we will likely contact you to explore the options.

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