

## Semen Thaw & Handling

### **Items:**

Electric Thaw Unit  
Heating Pad  
Ceramic Dish

### **Preparations at least 30 minutes prior to AI:**

- 1) Place warm water into thaw units and plug in – fill to the top. Make sure that warming lights are lit. Sometimes the plug that goes into the unit is not at all the way in allowing the water to cool. I suggest using 2 thaw units so you have a warm backup.
- 2) Plug in heating pad to begin warming
- 3) Warm Ceramic plate by running hot water over it until warm. Dry and place on warm heating pad.
- 4) Place AI gun on pad to warm. Always load a warm gun by keeping all guns on heating pad while not in use.

### **Thaw and gun loading procedure:**

Place the selected straw in the thaw unit cotton plug down for at least 40 seconds.

Remove thawed straw, dry and place on heating pad. Clip sealed end and load into warm AI Gun.

In the case of a 1/2cc straw, cut sealed end. Hold straw over well on warm ceramic plate. Clip the straw at edge of cotton plug to allow thawed semen to run out cut end and into well. Build warm AI gun with plunger style sheath. Place needle into thawed semen in well and draw ½ of the volume. This is approximately at the point where plunger disappears into barrel of gun.