This is an article about transporting semen for the small breeder. It covers the benefits and pitfalls of using transported semen (TS) to breed your own mares, and provides guidelines for handling semen and managing the mare during breeding.

**Why Bother?**

Transported semen can be a valuable tool for small breeders who may not have access to their own stallions. It allows breeders to breed mares to superior stallions far away, which can improve the quality of their stock. Additionally, use of transported semen can help breeders who may not have the resources to maintain their own stud farms.

**Preparation**

Before using transported semen, it is important to ensure that the mare is in good health and that she is being properly prepared for breeding. This includes ensuring that she is up to date on all vaccinations, has been dewormed, and has had her teeth checked and floated if necessary.

**Transported Semen**

Transported semen involves collecting semen from the stallion at his farm and then shipping it to the breeder's farm. This process is done in a controlled and sterile environment to ensure that the semen remains viable during transit.

**Ultrasound Exams**

Ultrasound exams are used to determine the stage of the mare’s estrous cycle. Early ultrasound exams are recommended to ensure that the mare is in estrus before the semen is introduced. This helps to ensure that the sperm have a better chance of fertilizing the egg.

**Regulations**

Breeding mares using transported semen requires adherence to specific regulations, such as those set by the American Horse Council. These regulations ensure the safety and welfare of both the mare and the stallion.

**Conclusion**

Transported semen can be a powerful tool for small breeders who want to improve the quality of their mares. By following the guidelines provided in this article, breeders can successfully use transported semen to breed their mares to superior stallions far away.