



THAWING EQUIPLAS®

Plasvacc recommends that the following instructions be strictly followed when thawing a bag of Equiplas Frozen Equine Plasma.

It must be remembered that any heat above body temperature has the ability to activate the Fibrinogen in the plasma, converting it into Fibrin – in other words, the whole bag will contain solids.

The remaining plasma is still safe to transfuse, however the filter in the blood administration set will block, and need to be replaced repeatedly.

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Gently cut the tamperproof seal on the plasma box.
2. Working over a bench, preferably covered with some sort of cushion (a doubled towel), tip the bag of Equiplas out of the box, into your hand.
3. Fill a sink or bucket with water NO WARMER than 45° Centigrade (40°C is ideal).
4. Ensure that the hot water is evenly mixed with the cold water.
5. A thermometer MUST be used.
6. Please do not use heating elements.
7. Place the bag into the water – have enough water in the sink so that the bag FLOATS.
8. The thermometer must be in the water bath for the duration of the thawing process.
9. Further hot water will need to be added during the thawing process to ensure that the plasma is approximately at body temperature for transfusion. **The Bag of Equiplas should be removed from the water bath, while the extra hot water is added.** The plasma cannot come into contact with the hot water (greater than 45° Centigrade) as it is running from the tap.
10. Do not thaw plasma in a microwave oven.
11. If thawing is performed by lay staff, please review their procedures from time to time – e.g the start of each foaling season.
12. Please thaw straight from the freezer to the warm water bath.

REMEMBER... If the bag of Equiplas is thawed and warmed to body temperature over a period of less than 30 minutes, too much heat has been used.

Some fine flakes of fibrin may be visible as the bag thaws, especially while it still contains an “ice block” of frozen plasma. These flakes should disappear as the plasma warms, but it is not unusual if some flakes are still visible at the time of transfusion – their presence is completely normal, and the reason why **a blood administration set must be used.**