

# CHOOSING AN EQUINE ARTIFICIAL VAGINA

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## OVERVIEW

Although there are differences between the various types of AVs, they all follow the same general design format of having a tubular inner liner, usually of rubber, surrounded by a fillable water jacket encased in a harder outer shell. Attachable at the end is some form of collection apparatus to capture the ejaculate. This apparatus may include a filter of some sort to remove the gel fraction of the ejaculate and any impurities such as smegma.

In determining the "ideal" length for an AV it is desirable that it's length be such that it allows the stallion to ejaculate as close to the end of the heated water space as possible. This avoids temperature shock and possible damage to the sperm. It is important to have accurate measurements of a stallion's erect penis length as well as shaft and flared glans diameters. Comparing a stallions penis measurements in relation to an AVs dimensions can provide valuable information when evaluating a stallions response to the stimulus provided by a particular type of AV as well as the quality of the resulting ejaculate sample. For example, some stallions will not ejaculate properly if they cannot flare fully so an AV that is too narrow will not provide optimal results. Other stallions will react positively to pressure on their glans during collection resulting in an easier collection with a higher quality ejaculate. In other words the differentiating factor here is the individual stallions preferences.

It is important to find and choose an AV that provides optimal stimulus, response and ejaculate samples. An individual stallion's preferences must be the prime determinant in selecting an AV with the owner/handlers preferences being secondary. In many instances, having more than one type of AV available for collection can offer the ability to accommodate the preferences of a wider range of stallions. It should be noted that each type of AV has its own attributes that differ from the others.

## AV TYPES

Six of the more common AV types are discussed on the following pages along with example pictures of each.

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### 1. COLORADO:

Length: 12 inches, 15 inches, 19 inches and 22 inches

Diameter ~ 5 ½ inches

Price ~ \$350 to \$500; Replacement rubber bladder and reusable liners ~ \$50 to \$85

Type 1 and Type 2 liners available

Weighs ~ 25 lbs. when filled with water.

Very durable under extreme use and retains it's temperature longer in cold weather due to the larger water volume. It allows the stallion to ejaculate well clear of the heated liner, thereby avoiding danger of sperm damage by heat shock.



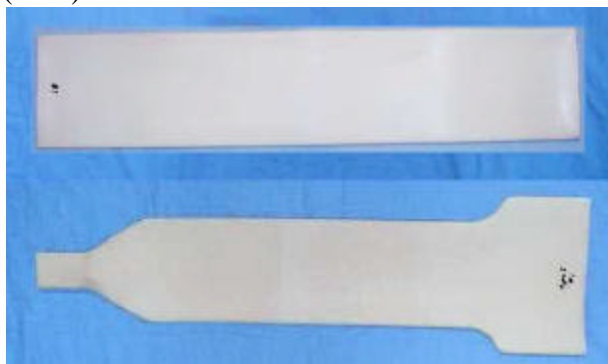
Animal Reproduction Systems (ARS) Colorado



Equine Breeders Supply (EBS) Model Colorado



Type 1 Bladder and Liner



Type 2 Bladder and Liner

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### 2. FUJIHIRA or FHK (JAPANESE): (Discontinued)

Length: ~ 18 inches (maximum penetration length ~ 15 inches)

Diameter: ~ 5 1/4 inches

Price ~ \$ 600.00

Replacement liners ~ \$100 each

Weighs ~ 18 lbs when filled with water.

Very durable during frequent and/or vigorous use and retains it's temperature relatively well.

A foam rubber dam in the tapered collection end of the casing is intended to approximate the "feel" of contacting a mare's cervix during natural service breeding.



### 3. HANNOVER (GERMAN):

Length: 17 inches (standard) or 18 inches (extended) with or without a dam in the collection end of the AV.

Diameter: ~ 4.5 inches (outside) and ~ 4 inches (inside)

Price ~ \$ 500.00

Replacement liners ~ \$60 to \$120 each. (Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3 liners are available.)

Weighs ~ 15 lbs. when filled with water.

Similar in construction to the Colorado type but is less bulky. Casing is made from a hard rubber. Does not retain it's temperature for as long as the Colorado type. The narrower diameter and rubber dam exerts pressure on a stallions flared glans resulting in an easier collection and better ejaculate.



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### 4. INRA (FRENCH):

Length: ~ 17 inches

Diameter: ~ 5 1/4 inches

Price: ~ \$ 450.00

Replacement liners ~ \$60 each (Type 1 and Type 2 liners are available.)

Replacement cone ~ \$40 each

Weighs ~ 15 lbs when filled with water.

Very durable during frequent and/or vigorous use and retains it's temperature relatively well.

Being lighter than the 19 and 23 inch Colorado units this AV provides an excellent compromise for those that like the Colorado but don't like the weight and handling difficulty.

The extra soft rubberware provides added stimulus for some stallions.



Type 1 Liner



Type 2 Liner



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### 5. MISSOURI:

Length: 12 inches, 16 inches and 22 inches

Diameter: ~ 4 ½ inches at the entry end and is slightly wider at the collection end.

Price ~ \$325; Replacement liner ~ \$275

(Type 1, Type 2, Type 3 and Type 4 liners are available)

Weighs ~ 12 lbs. when filled with water.

Is lighter and easier to handle than the other AVs. Allows for the addition of air to make the liner tighter. Provides less direct manual stimulation of the penis, which may be preferable with some stallions.



Type 1 (NASCO), made in England



Type 2 (Har-Vet), made in U.S.A.



Type 3 Liner, made in Germany



Type 4 Liner, made in Australia

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### 6. ROANOKE:

Length: ~ 15 ¾ inches

Diameter: Varies between 4 ½ inches at the entry end and 6 ¼ inches at the bell end

Price ~ \$350

Replacement liners ~ \$15 each

Weighs ~ 6 lbs. when filled with water.

The smallest and lightest AV to handle. This unit does not ship with a handle however, which can make handling difficult. Custom handles can be made to make the AV more manageable. Very durable under extreme use. Uses a textured liner that is either very well accepted or disliked by an individual stallion. Short length of AV reduces the chance for heat shock of the sperm. The Roanoke AV utilizes a different principle than the other AVs in that the stallion's penis "locks" inside the flared section after the glans engorges as opposed to the thrusting back and forth with the other AVs.

