

**Congratulations to the Roden family on the birth of their colt foal out of Davina by San Riant.**



Davina was inseminated at the practice at the end of last season, thanks to the fantastic service provided by Elite Stallions who provided and facilitated the chilled semen from Northern Germany.

The mare was scanned, monitored and programmed to require semen on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Our routine is to order semen by 9am the day before we wish to inseminate the mare and then the chilled semen arrives by 10am on the required day.

On the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013 the semen did not arrive by 10am. A quick phone call to Elite stallions [www.elitestallions.co.uk](http://www.elitestallions.co.uk) and we managed to ascertain that the semen had not been put on the plane.

Elite Stallions then organised for the chilled semen to be transported overland and sea and it finally arrived at Northampton at 10pm that evening. The chilled semen was released at midnight and then couriered to the practice and the mare was inseminated at 4am on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The mare was scanned in foal on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2013.

Without the instant response from Elite Stallions this little foal would not exist. The cut off for semen shipment from the stallion was the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013 so there was no chance of any further semen until next season.



Occasionally the process does fail and some suppliers are not prepared to move heaven and earth to meet their obligations. In these cases mares have to be injected and brought back into season.

Having been involved with equine AI for over 30 years, this has reinforced my belief that for successful AI all parties on occasion have to put themselves out.

This occurred recently this season when chilled semen failed to arrive for a mare and West Kington Stud (Big thanks to Tessa Clarke) couriered frozen semen to use (within 6 hours of being let down with the chilled semen) that mare is now in foal.

Big thanks to West Kington Stud for going the extra mile. [www.westkingtonstud.co.uk](http://www.westkingtonstud.co.uk)