

The A Team is first for frozen semen

TONY and Jane Apap have become the first non-vets accredited in Queensland to carry out the collection and storage of greyhound frozen semen. And to provide The A Team's client base with all its frozen semen requirements, the couple has spent \$20,000 completing the Camelot Farms course through South Australian vet John Katakasi, and developed their own laboratory at the Gatton stud.

"Only three vets in Queensland are registered for the collection and storage of frozen semen with the GRA, Christine Kidd, Annette Page and Phil Thomas," said Tony Apap.

"We are the first outside the vet world to gain that accreditation."

And already frozen semen from most of The A Team sires has been sent to NSW, Victoria and SA and is being snapped up.

"Obviously our intention was to open up our markets," said Apap.

"But this isn't the only reason why we have moved into this field. We feel it is extremely good for the longevity of our stud dogs. We don't want to extend our dogs too much."

Apap reports a number of purchases of frozen semen from his dogs have been snapped up in the southern states, breeders happy they don't have to send their bitches on a long and expensive trip to Queensland.

"John Katakasi is an expert in the surgical implant of broodbitches," said Apap. "And he charges only \$450 for the procedure, so it is a viable and acceptable procedure for getting broodbitches into pup."

"John has done 25 such implants recently and 24 have got into pup."



Apap said he had no hesitation in spending the \$20,000 for the course and laboratory.

"We've had to buy microscopes, nitrogen tanks etc and have built the laboratory out of cold room material for temperature control," he said.

"All our stud dogs have been collected and stored with the exception of Just The Best."

Apap explained that champion sire Just The Best, coming off the 2003 year in which he sired a record seven Group 1 winners, has been so busy it is virtually impossible to find the time to store his semen.

"And there is no way we are going to overextend him," he said.

Apap said his facilities were available to all studmasters.