

Dáire Markham MVB MRCVS

Daire Markham Ltd
Clydaugh Upper
Ballinlough
Co. Roscommon

087 2639806

Embryo Import & Export EU Approved Embryo Transfer & Flushing

VetEmbryos.ie – Client Guide to Services & Pricing

Effective September 2025

? Frequently Asked Questions

What is embryo transfer?

Embryo transfer (ET) is a process where embryos are collected from a genetically valuable donor cow or heifer and implanted into recipients (surrogates), who carry the pregnancy to term. This allows top cows or heifers to produce multiple calves per year, maximising genetic gain.

What's involved in the process?

1. The donor is given hormone treatment to encourage the production of multiple eggs (superovulation). This is done following a prescribed programme, which is administered by the client.
2. She is then inseminated — usually twice — using semen of your choice.
3. Seven days later, embryos are collected (flushed) from the uterus.
4. Viable embryos are graded, either transferred fresh into synchronised recipients or frozen for future use.

Who performs the flush and transfer?

The entire procedure — superovulation, flushing, grading, freezing, and transfer — is carried out by our **veterinary-led team** at VetEmbryos.ie. The **flush itself takes place at our unit**, and clients are required to bring the donor animal to us on the day of flushing. Insemination is performed by your **own AI technician**.



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How do I time the insemination?

The donor must be inseminated **7 days before** the planned flush.

- **Minimum of 2 inseminations** is recommended. If using sexed semen, **3 inseminations** are advised for best results.
- Timing is critical — we will advise you precisely once a flush is booked.

What does flushing cost?

Number of Donors Flushing Procedure Price per Donor (incl. VAT)

1 Donor	€340.00
2 Donors	€325.00
3 Donors	€315.00
4 Donors	€300.00

These are the **per-donor prices for the flushing procedure only**.

- **Drug packages** are charged separately and are outlined below.

What hormone do you use?

We use **Pluset®** for superovulation.

Heifer donors typically require lower doses than cows. Specific dosage instructions are provided with each package. All vials and mixing instructions are included in the drug package described below.



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What do drug packages cost?

Donor Type	1 Donor	2 Donors	3 Donors
Heifer	€320	€490 (€245/donor)	€710 (€237/donor)
Cow	€380	€675 (€338/donor)	€990 (€330/donor)

- Packages include all required **Pluset®**, **Ovarelin**, and **Bioestrovect** along with consumables
- Price include VAT

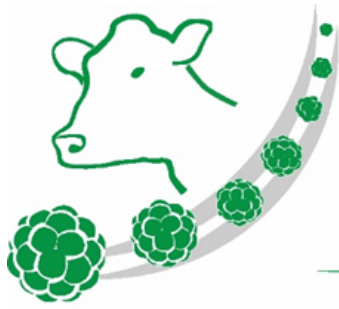
What happens when the embryos are collected?

Once the embryos are flushed from the donor cow (7 days after insemination), they are immediately assessed and graded by our veterinary team:

- **Viable embryos** are either:
 - Transferred **fresh** into synchronised recipients that same day, or
 - **Frozen** and stored for future use (at our EU-approved facility)
- **Unviable or unfertilised embryos** are discarded

Embryo freezing is charged at €35 per embryo (incl. VAT), which includes 6 months complimentary storage. All embryos that are not transferred fresh must be frozen immediately after collection to preserve their viability

Clients receive a detailed flush report showing the number and grade of embryos collected, along with Certificates of Flushing, Transfer (for fresh implants), and/or Freezing, with all records also retained by VetEmbryos.ie for veterinary and EU compliance.



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How are embryos transferred?

Embryos are transferred either:

- **Fresh** – directly into synchronised recipients the same day they're collected
- **Frozen** – thawed and implanted at a later date

All transfers take place **at our ET unit** in Ballinlough.

We offer frozen embryo transfers both at our facility and on-farm by prior arrangement.

Fresh transfers are **strictly in-unit only**.

What does embryo transfer cost?

Type of Transfer	Price per Recipient (incl. VAT)
Frozen	€90.00
Fresh	€80.00

Can I use recipients based on natural heats?

Yes — but there are limitations:

- **We implant Monday to Friday**, excluding Bank Holidays
- All work takes place during **standard office hours**
- The recipient must be implanted **7 to 8 days after standing heat** — this timing must be observed carefully.

➡ ⚠ **Natural heats will be accommodated** where possible, but please note that service availability cannot always be guaranteed.



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What happens to the embryos after freezing?

All embryos frozen at VetEmbryos.ie are stored in our **EU-approved storage facility** in Ballinlough. Each embryo is individually identified and labelled.

You'll receive a written inventory following the flush, and storage fees will apply as outlined below.

How much does embryo storage cost?

Storage Plan	Fee (incl. VAT)
Standard (charged at €2.00/month per embryo)	€24.00/year, invoiced annually in arrears
Capped fee (for >25 embryos)	€600/year, invoiced annually in arrears
First 6 months	Free
Exemption (if ≥20% implanted or exported)	Free storage for that calendar year

What can I do to maximise my success rate with embryo implants?

- Start at least 30 days prior to embryo transfer with a **positive plane of nutrition**, including full mineral and trace mineral supplementation.
- Select healthy recipients that are **up to 6 years of age** and **at least 60 days post-calving**.
- Ensure recipients are **cycling regularly** and have shown **strong, standing heats**.
- **Avoid large changes in diet** 30 days before and 45 days after ET.
- **Follow all outlined programmes precisely** — from synchronisation to implant timing.
- **Consult with your vet** regarding herd health and any disease control measures.
- **Complete any pre-breeding vaccinations** 30–45 days before ET.
- Do not implant off weak or questionable heats — timing and quality of heat are critical.



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What is the best type of recipient?

- **Heifers** generally offer higher conception rates than cows.
- Avoid animals with any **known fertility issues**.
- Do not use recipients that are **overly thin or excessively fat** — aim for a balanced condition score.

Embryo Export & Import

VetEmbryos.ie is fully EU-licensed for the import and export of bovine embryos. We work with international agents and approved laboratories to ensure that all embryos meet the required health, identification, and transport standards.

- **Export:** We can assist with documentation, EU health certificates, and coordination with your nominated agent or buyer. Please allow adequate lead time.
- **Import:** We support the importation of embryos from approved countries and partner labs. Please contact us in advance so we can guide you through veterinary clearance and customs procedures.

All embryos imported or exported through our facility are handled in accordance with Irish and EU legislation, with appropriate documentation and record-keeping as standard.

Contact Information

For queries or to make a booking: ☎ +353 87 26 39 806

✉ info@vetembryos.ie

🌐 www.vetembryos.ie



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Final Notes

At VetEmbryos.ie, we're committed to delivering a trusted, veterinary-led service that supports your breeding goals. Whether flushing elite donors, transferring embryos, or facilitating international trade, we're here to help you achieve genetic progress with confidence.

Client Responsibilities & Booking Terms

How to Book

Contact us directly to schedule your donor flush and any embryo transfers. Bookings should be made **well in advance** to secure your preferred dates, especially during peak breeding periods.

Cancellation Policy

If you need to cancel or reschedule a flush or transfer appointment, please notify us as early as possible. While we understand that plans can change, we rely on good will and advance notice to manage our schedule effectively.

Heat Detection

You are responsible for observing and recording heats in your recipient animals. **Accurate heat detection** is essential for synchronisation and successful implantation. We will advise you on ideal timing and protocols.

Payment Terms

All procedures and drug packages must be paid for **in advance or on the day of service** unless otherwise agreed. Invoices will be issued promptly, and late payments may result in delays to future bookings or services.

We aim to work flexibly with our clients but rely on timely communication and cooperation to ensure smooth and successful results.