STILLWATER, Okla.—Ms. Hilary Branscum, Oak Hollow Bordeaux (www.oakhollowbordeaux.com), of Pink, Okla., is an owner/handler/breeder of Dogue de Bordeaux show dogs also called the French Mastiff. She took Nellie, a 3 ½ year old Dogue de Bordeaux, to Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Center for Veterinary Health Sciences to have her bred. Last week, the dog was back for a sonogram to determine if, in fact, she is pregnant.
www.oakhollowbordeaux.com

Originating in France, the breed's general appearance is a powerful dog, built low to the ground, very muscular, and features a trapezoid shaped head. Their short coat comes in shades of fawn to mahogany with a black or red mask. White patches are permissible on the chest and extremities of the limbs.

"This breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) on July 1, 2008," explains Branscum. "Before that, we would show the dogs with rare breed organizations, such as the United Kennel Club (UKC), and in Canada."

Branscum prefers having her show dogs artificially inseminated. This is because she uses studs from other states to improve her breeding program. Her veterinarian, Dr. Craig Thomas (OSU Class of 1995) of Warr Acres Animal Clinic in Warr Acres, Okla., referred Branscum to OSU for their veterinary theriogenology services.

Nellie had the procedure performed at the veterinary center's Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital just weeks before. Using fresh chilled semen from a male dog in California, Dr. Chelsea Makloski, resident in Theriogenology, assisted by Dr. Chris Schreiber, intern in Theriogenology, surgically implanted it inside Nellie.

Branscum owns multi-champion titled dogs. She prides herself in doing obedience training with their dogs, noting that some of them become therapy dogs.

"My hope is to eventually obtain some frozen semen from Europe," says Branscum. "Gigi, another dog of ours, recently placed 4th in group at an AKC show. She was the first female to place in group and only the second Bordeaux to place in group. We are so proud Gigi made breed history!"

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