PearlPod LLC

PearlPod LLC is based on technology developed by Veterinarian Carlos Gradil, who currently serves as PearlPod’s interim CEO. His initial goal was to improve control of female horse behavior. Female horses can behave erratically during their mating season, which can be disturbing or even dangerous to riders. The traditional remedy has been to insert a glass marble into the uterus, which stimulates progesterone secretion and calms behavior. But marbles are known to fall out easily, and their presence or absence can’t be easily detected.

Dr. Gradil has developed an elegant solution to this problem. He developed an IUD made up of plastic-coated magnets, which self-assemble into a shape that keeps them from falling out, while at the same time their individually small size makes insertion and removal very easy. Their presence can be confirmed by ultrasound, or easier yet, they can be detected by simply holding a hand-held metal detector to the mare’s abdomen. At the end of the mating season the magnets can easily be retrieved from the uterus using a magnetic wand. The PearlPod IUDs should be useful not only for behavior control, but also to allow horse breeders to synchronize horse ovulation for same-day artificial insemination.

Other Products

PearlPod plans to develop modified devices that include traditional copper or progesterone-eluting coatings to make these IUDs capable of providing reliable contraception. Because of their simple design, ease of insertion and ease of removal, these devices could be used for controlling animal populations in the wild, and to provide a non-surgical means of controlling fertility in pets. And these IUDs would offer considerable advantages over currently-available human IUDs, which can be challenging to remove, sometimes requiring the device be torn from the uterus wall. In addition, over 100,000 IUDs in the U.S. fall out each year; current IUDs have a string coming out of the cervix to assure they are still there. The PearlPod IUD would need no string, because PearlPod can provide a specially developed metal detector app to allow a woman to easily confirm the IUD is still in place with her cell phone.