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THE VETERINARY TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT ADVISES: EJACULATE EVALUATION (VOL.1)

During evaluation, maintain the ejaculate at a constant temperature equal to the one at which it has arrived in the laboratory (e.g.: if the ejaculate arrives in the laboratory at 34°C, the water of the bain-marie must be at 34°C)

The valuation is a very delicate process. Doing it right or wrong can mean a reduction in the performance of the centre, or the production of a poor quality product.

We recommend exhaustive registering and monitoring of all the data, which may help correct decision making at specific moments in time and the identification of sub-optimum situations.

MICROSCOPIC EVALUATION:

1. MOTILITY AND AGGLUTINATION:

We recommend the use of a heatable plate to warm the equipment (plates, pipettes, covers...) and a microscope with a heatable slide. The evaluation is made at 37°C. Higher and lower temperatures can cause appreciation errors.

It is very important to control the temperatures. During the evaluation all the materials that are going to come into contact with the semen must be at 36 – 38 °C.

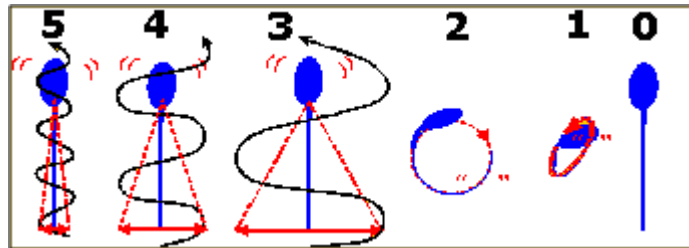
Make regular checks to ensure the slides and heatable plates work correctly.

Plates, pipettes, covers, etc., must be clean with no remains that could be toxic or agglutinate the spermatozoids such as dust, soap, disinfectant, etc.

Make the evaluation almost immediately after placing the drop on the plate (the spermatozoids agglutinate and are exhausted over time).

- Observe the mass motility (overall) with the objective of 10x: from 0 to 100%.
 - This value is used to indicate the proportion of spermatozoids presenting motility.
 - Normal: > 70 %. Limit value of 60%.

- Observe the individual motility with the objective of 20 – 40x: from 0 to 5.



On occasions, when the ejaculate and the diluent are mixed, there is a higher proportion of spermatozoids making circular movements, which become rectilinear once the spermatic cells have stabilized.

In order for the result to be as objective as possible, at least three fields must be observed.

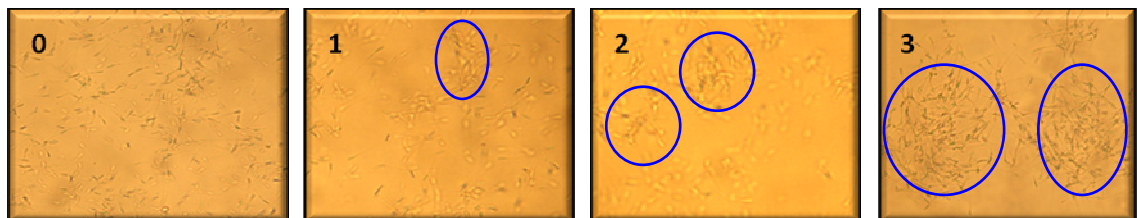
*Example: high quality ejaculate could be **80 / 4**.*

The AGGLUTINATION is evaluated with the objective of 10x and 40x: **from 0 to 3**. We recommend < a grade 2.

It is considered normal when it occupies from 0 to 10% of the field, with a limit of 25%.

It is very important to use suitable and warmed material (as for motility).

Degree of agglutination:



GRADE 1: A group of at least 20 spermatozoids.

GRADE 2: Two groups of at least 20 spermatozoids.

GRADE 3: Several groups of at least 20 spermatozoids.