



THE VETERINARY TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT ADVISES: TRANSPORT AND RECEPTION OF EJACULATE IN THE LABORATORY

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Once the ejaculate has been collected in the extraction zone (previous chapter), it must be transported to the laboratory for evaluation and processing. There are however pre-laboratories in some centres. The gauze or filter containing gelatinous material is removed in the pre-laboratories to obtain the pure ejaculate from the thermos so only the ejaculate and its container (a collection vessel or bag) enter the processing laboratory.

The processing laboratories are sometimes a long way from the male pig premises. An initial evaluation is therefore often made in the pre-laboratories (mass motility) and a pre-dilution (normally 1:1) for subsequent transport to the processing laboratories.

The extraction zone must always be physically separated from the pre-laboratory (if there is one) and this must be separated from the processing laboratory. It is useful for movement from the extraction zone or pig houses, to the pre-laboratory or to the processing laboratory to always be undertaken through a covered area that provides protection from adverse climatic conditions (wind, light, temperatures, rain, etc.), although they are usually adjacent to one other. This is especially important during the winter months.

The ejaculate must always be transported using an insulated vessel (e.g. thermos) to maintain its temperature as stable as possible and to avoid thermal shocks and the death of spermatozoids. To this end, in addition to using this type of vessel, it is also advisable to keep the temperature constant at 37-38°C (ejaculate temperature 38.5°C) or even up to 40°C if the extraction is to continue for some time (the temperature of the pig houses, possible setbacks, characteristics of the animals, etc. must be taken into account). A very useful tool mentioned above is the use of a temperature-controlled diluter in the collection vessel.

Whenever possible, the operator making the extraction should not enter the processing laboratory. In the event that the same operator making the extraction

also carries out the evaluation and processing, they must at least wear different footwear in each area. We also recommend not bringing the collection thermoses into the laboratory, and the removal of the gauze or filter containing gelatinous material. The objective is for the zone to be as aseptic as possible.

The pre-laboratory, or if there is none, the extraction room must be connected to the processing laboratory by means of a double-glazed window, which may have its own heating system, to avoid the mixing of both atmospheres. In the event that the processing laboratory is a long way from the pre-laboratory, the ejaculate must be identified, the filter containing gelatinous material removed, and a 1:1 pre-dilution of the ejaculate made; diluting and conserving in a chamber at 25-30°C.

Transport is made to the processing laboratory in a regulated chamber to ensure a constant temperature without rises and falls. There are also systems in which the ejaculate is sent in isothermal capsules through piping propelled by compressed air.

Once it has reached the laboratory, it is advisable to measure the temperature of the ejaculate and when necessary to place it in a water bath at 33-34°C to avoid the oscillation of the temperature while estimating the potential of the dose to be produced. If the ejaculate is not diluted, we recommend making a small pre-dilution with for example, 100ml of temperature-controlled diluter.



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