

THE DYNAMIC OF EJACULATE QUALITY COLLECTED DAILY FROM BOARS OF DIFFERENT AGES

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SUMMARY

Semen was collected from boars belonging to the Pietrain, Landrace and Great White breeds, aged 3 years (2 animals), 4 years (4 animals), 5 years (3 animals) and 7 years (2 animals). The procedure was undertaken daily until the males refused to jump and ejaculate. Irrespective of age and breed, after 4 or 5 days of continuous collection the experiment was terminated because no semen could be harvested. After each collection the ejaculate volume and quality dropped, in a manner dependent on age and boar. The average ejaculate volume of the 3 year boars decreased by 26.6% on the second collection, after which it slowed down reaching, on the fifth day, 56.2% of what it originally was. In the case of animals aged 4, 5 and 7 years, ejaculate volumes are drastically reduced only after the third collection. Sperm concentration in the ejaculates collected from 3 year old boars, on the second day decreases by 21.19% when compared to the first day and on the fourth day by 45.28% when compared to the third. For the 4 year old boars the concentration decreasing rate is slower. The difference between ejaculates from the first and second day is of 13.14% and between those from days 3 and 4, 40.52%. Semen concentration for the 5 and 7 year old boars decreases even slower. On the fourth collection, sperm concentration in the first age group represents 60.08% when compared to the one registered on the first day while for the second it is 51.75%. Sperm motility is 75% on the first day and always 70% on the last. For the 3 year old boars it decreases by 5 % on the second collection and then stays invariably at 70%. Motility in semen from the 4 year old animals is 75% on the first 2 days, after which it decreases in a manner dependent on the individual. The same thing happens with the 5 year old boars. Motility in the semen from 7 year old animals decreases after the first collection. Sexual drive in the 3 and 4 year old boars diminishes faster than in those aged 5 and 7. Reproductive characteristics vary irrespective of age, mostly due to individual traits. Therefore we recommend that boars should be assessed individually in order to decide whether they should be used for reproductive purposes or not.

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