



## SOP 4.07 Palpation and Examination of the Reproductive tract of Bulls.

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### Purpose

- (1) The objective of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance to the Charles Sturt University staff on:
  - a. The assessment of genitalia of bulls and measurement of scrotal circumference.

### Scope

- (2) This procedure applies to any person who is involved in AEC approved projects involving the assessment of bulls for reproductive purposes.
- (3) All researchers and teaching staff using animals for scientific purposes must be competent in handling bulls and examining the reproductive tracts of bulls. For definition of competency refer to Charles Sturt University's Policy on 'Animal Care Competency Training and Assessment'

### Details of procedure

- (4) Bulls should be restrained to prevent injury to the operator and the bull. This usually requires a crush with a head bail and a rear restraining device.
- (5) The operator approaches the bull from the rear. The testes are drawn down into the scrotum and the structures palpated without using excessive pressure. Assessment of the size, consistency and tone of the testes should be recorded. Scrotal circumference measurement should be made with a metal tape at the widest circumference of the testes. The scrotum, spermatic cord, and epididymis should be assessed visually and by palpation.
- (6) The sheath and umbilicus should initially be visually examined from the side of the crush.
- (7) The sheath, umbilicus and penis within the sheath should then be palpated for any abnormalities ensuring the operator stands on the side and towards the shoulder of the bull for safety reasons.
- (8) The length of the sheath should be palpated for abnormalities and the prepuce examined. The penis should be palpated via the sheath, and visually assessed if/when it protrudes from the prepuce.
- (9) Internal organs, including ampulla, vesicular glands, prostate, and bulbourethral gland may be examined by trans rectal palpation. A well lubricated gloved hand is carefully introduced into the rectum. The operator needs to be aware of techniques to deal with straining and peristalsis of the rectum by the animal. Care must be taken to avoid perforation of the rectum by the hand.



## **SOP 4.07 Palpation and Examination of the Reproductive tract of Bulls.**

### **Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents**

(10) None required.

### **Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals**

(11) The procedure is usually well tolerated.

### **Animal care**

(12) Observation following examination.

### **Pain relief**

(13) Non required.

### **Reuse and repeated use**

- (14) In general, bulls should not be examined more than 2 days in any week.
- (15) Repeat external genitalia examination is restricted primarily by the demeanour and temperament of the bull.
- (16) Trans-rectal examination should not occur on more than 6 occasions in any one day.

### **Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure**

- (17) Demonstrator - sound experience with these procedures.
- (18) Students - prior experience with handling livestock and a background knowledge in reproduction is desirable.

### **Record requirements**

(19) Appropriate monitoring and recording of the use of animals must occur.

### **Associated documentation (including pictures if available)**

(20) None required.

### **References and relevant links**

- (21) <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/animals/animal-ethics-infolink/legislation-and-the-australian-code/animal-research-regulation>