

Use of an artificial vagina to collect semen from donor bulls

Recommended Instructor to student ratio 1:<10

Objective

To collect semen from donor bulls with minimal stress to both bulls and decoy/'dummy' animals.

Alternatives to animal use for teaching

Videos and lectures are appropriate

Details of procedure

Decoy cows or steers should be adequately restrained and not be subject to stress. Bulls should be handled by an experienced operator and not allowed to cause physical stress to decoy animals. Some bulls may be trained to mount dummy cows.

An appropriate artificial vagina that has been correctly assembled must be used for collecting the ejaculate into an appropriate collecting vessel.

The bull is introduced to the area where there is a restrained animal or dummy mount.

He is 'teased' as necessary, and then allowed to mount the restrained animal or dummy.

The penis is deflected into the AV that is the correct size and has been prepared appropriately with the correct liner, lubricant, water at the correct temperature (40-50°C) and sufficient pressure on the penis, possibly by adding air to the AV, to enhance ejaculation.

Once the bull has ejaculated and dismounted, he is returned to his holding facilities.

Human, and decoy animal safety is paramount.

Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents

Normally not required.

Impact of procedure on the wellbeing of animal(s)

Usually nil on bulls. Special care should be taken with decoys.

Reuse and repeated use

Bulls will not ejaculate if not willing to do so. Two or three collections are possible from a bull in one day, with a brief rest between collections.

Care of animal(s) during/after procedure

Bulls should be haltered and reasonably restrained to avoid stress on decoys. Decoys should be placed in a crush or serving cradle which is designed to limit stress from the weight and activity of donor bulls.

Pain relief measures

Decoys should be alternated if visibly distressed.

Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure

Demonstrator (operator) – Sound experience with the procedures being used

Students - experience in cattle handling

Relevant Links

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/general>