

Collection of semen: Artificial vagina method for sheep

Recommended Instructor: student ratio: 1:<16

Objective

Collection of semen with the use of a dummy mount ewe and an artificial vagina.

Alternatives to animal use for teaching

Video presentation, lectures.

Details of procedure

The artificial vagina (AV) is a hard plastic/PVA (or similar) tube approximately 25cm in length and 7cm in diameter with a rubber/silicone liner. The space between the liner and the tube is filled with warm (40-50°C) water and air via a tap mechanism as necessary, to obtain a snug fit on the ram penis when it is introduced to the device. A glass, plastic or similar vial is fitted to the opposite end to which the penis is inserted to collect the ejaculate.

The teaser or dummy mount ewe is restrained in an appropriate restraining device, and the ram allowed to enter the pen with the ewe. After appropriate sexual behaviour of the ram, he mounts the teaser ewe. The AV is inserted over the ram's penis by the operator, and the ejaculate collected.

The ewe and ram are returned to their respective pens/yards.

Drugs, chemicals or biological agents

Not required.

Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals

No effect on the ram's health or fertility. The ram will not operate/ejaculate if conditions are not correct. The ewe should not be restrained for long periods of time.

Reuse and repeated use

The ram might be used up to three occasions on a day, but not more than five times in a week. Different teaser ewes should be used where possible.

Care of animal(s) during/after the procedure

The procedure is usually well tolerated and rams will recover completely without adverse effects. Routine management can resume.

Pain relief measures

Not needed.

Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure:

A sound knowledge of how to carry out the procedure.