



## AEC SOP 9.02 Preparing teaser ewes for semen collection from rams using an artificial vagina

**Version and Date of Issue:** Ver 2, April 2024  
**Written by:** Allan Gunn and Jennifer Clulow  
**Review due date:** March 2027

### Purpose

- (1) The objective of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance to the Charles Sturt University staff on:
  - a. The preparation of ewes as a 'dummy mount' to obtain ram semen via an artificial vagina.

### Scope

- (1) This procedure applies to any person who is involved in AEC approved projects involving artificial vagina semen collection from rams using a teaser ewe.
- (2) All researchers and teaching staff using animals for scientific purposes must be competent. For definition of competency refer to Charles Sturt University's Policy on 'Animal Care Competency Training and Assessment'

### Details of procedure

#### Preparing a ewe for ram semen collection using an artificial vagina

- (3) The primary aim is ensure that a ewe in oestrus will facilitate the training of a ram for semen collection via an artificial vagina. Typically, this requires administration of an appropriate dose of oestradiol benzoate (1mg/week IM) 1-2 days prior to semen collection training. Oestradiol administration is important to assist in inducing appropriate hormonal and pheromonal responses from the ewe. In order to facilitate ram training, it is important for the ewe to be restrained in a stationary standing position. The 'standing to be mounted' posture is an important part of the visual cues to encourage sexual and mounting behaviour in the ram. The welfare of the ewe must be considered at all times, so should not be restrained for longer than necessary. NB- Once the rams are trained to mount and ejaculate, there is NO NEED FOR OESTRUS INDUCTION IN THE EWE. The ewe and ram are returned to their respective pens/yards.

### Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents

- (4) 1mg oestradiol benzoate weekly. This is not necessary once the ram is trained.

### Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals

- (5) Appropriate size of the ewe to the ram must be considered.



## **AEC SOP 9.02 Preparing teaser ewes for semen collection from rams using an artificial vagina**

### **Animal care**

- (2) Transport, handling, and caging will be conducted in accordance with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle 2014.

### **Pain relief**

- (6) Typically, none required.

### **Reuse and repeated use**

- (7) A ewe should not be restrained, nor used for more than an hour in any 6 hour period, and no more than any four days in a week.

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

- (8) Demonstrators should have been trained for this procedure.

### **Record requirements**

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

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

- (10) None required.

### **Glossary**

- (11) None required.

#### References and relevant links

- (12) [Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle 2014, Animal Health Australia, version 1. www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au](http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au)
- (13) <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-care-and-welfare/livestock/livestock-files/national-model-codes-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-livestock>
- (14) <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare>