ABSTRACTS

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Evaluation of different methodologies to assess ovulation time in Bulldog bitches

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OBJECTIVES AND METHODS: To evaluate and compare different methodologies used to determine ovulation time in Bulldog bitches. Fifty Bulldog bitches from two to seven years of age were followed every two days since the beginning of estrual bleeding. The clinical assessments used to determine ovulation time were: reduction of estrual bleeding, reduction of vulvar edema, male acceptance, presence of more than 80% of superficial cells on a vaginal cytology slide and progesterone levels by an in-house ELISA test. Progesterone measured by RIA was used as the gold standard and was compared with the other methodologies to determine agreement with ovulation time.

RESULTS: Progesterone measurement by ELISA had an agreement of 90% with the RIA method, followed by vaginal crenulations (78%) and vaginal cytology (66%). Decreasing vulvar edema had a 56%, male acceptance had 52%. The least reliable method to detect the beginning of estrus was the reduction of estrual bleeding with a 32% agreement.

CONCLUSION: The best clinical tools to assess ovulation time in the Bulldog bitch under a clinical setting was the measurement of progesterone by ELISA in house kit (4). Even though crenulations had a 78% agreement, it is a very relevant tool in the Bulldog bitch, since other measurements such as reduction of vulvar edema or reduction of estrual bleeding are not very useful. None of the methodologies compared to the measurement of progesterone by RIA was reliable enough for breeding bitches with frozen semen. But the use of in house progesterone kits and vaginoscopy are good indicators of ovulation for breeding neutrally or with fresh or cooled semen by AI.

(3) Fontbonne A., Malandain E. Ovarian ultrasonography and follow-up of estrus in the bitch and queen. WALTHAM Focus 2006; 16(2):22-29.