Semen Quality and Motility Scoring Fact Sheet

1. Semen Motility - Scored for both the percentage of motility and type of motility present for both fresh semen and stored semen (before extension or insemination)
   a. Percentage Motility
      • Expressed as a subjective quantification of the amount of motile sperm cells in a given field
   b. Motility Type Scoring System - Expresses the type of motility exhibited by the majority sperm cells (1-5) with 5 being the best type of motility
      • 5= Movement across the slide at a rate which cannot be followed with your eye
      • 4= Movement across the slide at a rate which you are able to follow with your eye
      • 3= Movement in a circular fashion, with progressive movement across the field
      • 2= Circular motion only
      • 1= No directional movement with only the tail twitching
      • 0= There is no movement
   c. Fresh Semen
      • Semen must be at 37°C
      • Utilize a very small droplet
      • Use prewarmed slides and coverslips from the slide warmer
      • Always place coverslips on the slide to allow for better examination
      • Record the percentage motility and motility type on semen collection recording sheet
        o Motility type must be a 3 or higher to use for extension
        o If motility type is type 3, then this collection should only be used the same day and not stored
   d. Stored Semen
      • Semen needs to be mixed thoroughly
      • Put a drop about the size of a quarter on slide warmer at 37°C
      • Mix the sample on the slide warmer well
      • Use only a small droplet and put it on a prewarmed slide
      • Use prewarmed slides and coverslips from the slide warmer
      • Always place a coverslip on the slide to allow for better examination
      • Record the percentage motility and motility type on semen collection recording sheet
        o Motility type must be a minimum of 2 to use for insemination

2. By recording more detailed information about motility, more history will be given on the boar if problems are experienced at a later date. A change in the pattern indicates that a more detailed semen evaluation is necessary to examine the acrosomes