RESUMO

The fertility of male canines can be evaluated in two ways. One of which is through a test of fertility, in which the breeder waits for confirmation of the gestation of a female after the male in question has mated. However, this practice can be prejudicial and frustrating for breeders. With the idea of reproduction in mind, the breeder should only use animals whose qualitative and quantitative ejaculate parameters have been examined.

The second method, semen analysis, is an essential part of an andrological exam, which as well as being a clinical and sanitary exam, relays information about the quality of the sperm, which includes the motility, vigor, concentration, morphology, etc. The objective of this study is to evaluate average parameters of sperm in canines of reproductive age. To do this, 10 dogs between 2 and 7 years of age were utilized. Breeds represented in the study include, Boxer (1), Dobermann (1), Labrador, Gordon Setter (2), English Bulldog (2), French Bulldog (2), and Siberian Husky (1). All animals involved in the study were submitted to a general physical exam and anamnesis, with no pathophysiologic alteration.

During semen collection, graduated conical tubes and manual stimulation were utilized. Ejaculate volume was assessed and optical microscopy was utilized to evaluate the motility (%), vigor (1-5), concentration and pathologies (image augmented 1000x) present. The 10x and 40x objectives were used to evaluate the motility and vigor of sperm in a drop of semen placed between a slide and a cover slip heated to 37°C. The concentration of sperm was determined through cell counting utilizing a Neubauer chamber and a dilution of 1:100. To determine sperm pathologies, the slide was stained using Botuvital® (Botupharma Biotecnologia Animal, Botucatu/SP). The average±standard deviation values obtained were: ejaculate volume 4.45±1.85mL, sperm motility 70.00±26.98%, vigor 3.67±1.12, concentration 152.06±101.83, sperm pathologies: normal 84.13±6.98, larger defects 4.38±2.72 and smaller defects 11.25±6.23. Through these results, it is possible to observe that there was a large individual variation for some animals in the parameters of motility and sperm concentration as evidenced by the standard deviation. Nevertheless, all the animals showed parameters within the pre-existing parameters of the species as cited in the Manual of Andrological Examination and Evaluation of Animal Semen (2013) of the Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction (CBRA).