RESUMO

The equine industry of Brazil is ranked as one of the five largest in the world, generating approximately 16 billion reais annually. The growth of equine breeding is intimately related to the biotechnological advances in animal reproduction, specifically embryo transfer (TE), which allows for an increase in reproductive efficiency and genetic enhancement. The pregnancy rate is the main result of TE and can be influenced by the selection and handling of the mares that are recipients or donors embryos, follicular control through palpation and ultrasonography of the reproductive tract, as well as the synchronization of estrus and ovulation through hormone therapy. Due to the inherent variables in the embryo transfer process, this study evaluated the interference of embryonary age on pregnancy rates. To achieve this, reproductive control records of an equine reproduction center in the state of Rio de Janeiro were analyzed. The analyzed data spanned from 2005 to 2015 and the results were evaluated through the Chi-squared test (X²). 976 embryo transfers were analyzed, which resulted in a pregnancy rate of 59.53% (581/976). Pregnancy diagnosis was performed 60 days after the TE procedure through an ultrasonographic exam in B mode. The pregnancy rates obtained after embryo transfer with embryos of 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 days of age were: 50.88% (86/169), 62.47% (243/389), 64.16% (213/332), 56.14% (32/57) e 30.00% (3/10), respectively. Records of 5-day old embryo transfers were not considered in this study due to the low number performed (n<10). Between the 7, 8, and 9-day old embryos there was a higher (p>