

The HYCOLE males

The recommendations are adapted to the HYCOLE males: White, Coloured and Mixte.

1) The breeding conditions

1.1) Feeding

➤ From weaning to 10 weeks:

* Follow the rationing program for fattening animals (see Fact No. 6.1 and 6.2).

* Distribute a growing feed.

* At 10 weeks of age, control animals and individualize those with no health problems and with the best growth.

➤ From 10 weeks to 15 weeks:

* Ration the animals with a growing feed: 180 / 200 g / day.

➤ From 16 weeks :

* From 16 to 25 weeks: *ad libitum* feeding.

* From 25 weeks: **possibility to ration** the animals:

- **HYCOLE White:** 230 g / day,

- **HYCOLE Coloured and Mixte:** 190 g / day.

* From the testing, distribute a specific feed for males producing semen or a growing feed supplemented with vitamin E.



Objectives of animals' weights:

| | HYCOLE White | HYCOLE Coloured and Mixte |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Testing | 5 kg minimum | 4.5 kg minimum |
| Average adult weight | 6.5 to 7.5 kg | 5.5 to 6.5 kg |



Once a month, provide a supply of vitamins, amino acids... suitable for males in water or in feeding.

- Water *ad libitum*

1.2) Illumination

- 16 hours light / day, it is important to respect the duration of illumination.

1.3) Disease prevention

- The males of **10 weeks and more** are fully vaccinated against myxomatosis and V.H.D. (primary vaccination).
- Every 14 weeks make a vaccine recall against myxomatosis and every 26 weeks against V.H.D.
- Confirm with your veterinarian treatments to be performed (anthelmintic, anticoccidial...) and their periodicity.



Always make a 3-day course of vitamins after a vermifuge and rinse the water circuit.

2) The management of animals

2.1) Quarantine

- The quarantine period lasts **at least 4 weeks** from receipt of the animals.



The quarantine period may include testing.

- At the end of quarantine period, control animals on :
 - * their health status,
 - * their growth: eliminate animals that are not suitable for semen production or who have inadequate feed consumption.
- Animals showing no anomalies can be put into testing.

2.2) Testing

- Animal can be put into testing from **20 weeks of age**.
- The duration of testing period is 3 to 4 weeks.
- The testing involves:
 - * to accustom the males to handling and semen collection,
 - * to validate their semen quality.
- Collect males **1 week to 2**, with 2 semen collection during the week of sampling.

- At the end of the testing period, the males who not have problem and with a satisfying semen quality can be put into production.

2.3) Production

- Animals can be put into production from the age of **24 to 25 weeks**.
- Males must be collected **EVERY week**.
- The semen collection rate is 2 to 3 times a week.
- The average volume of ejaculate is 0.7 / 0.8 ml.



Advices for semen collection:

- * Animals are very sensitive to the temperature of the artificial vagina; it should be between 48 to 50°C.
- * 5 to 10 minutes prior to the semen collection, provide an excitement phase for males.

3) The monitoring of animals

Each male must be followed with an individual record (handwritten or computer) containing:

- Date of arrival in quarantine
- In case of removal or death during quarantine: the date and cause
- Date of entry into production
- Date of semen collection with event logging :
 - Urine or blood in the ejaculate, refusing to collect, health problem, treatment...
 - Semen quality and number of doses carried out (if available)
- Date and cause of death or culling



Every 4 months, to control all the males and cull those with problem or with poor results.



The production period of a male is 2 years maximum.