# The HYCOLE males

**The recommendations are fiited to the HYCOLE males: White, Coloured, Mixte and GP C.**

## 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 the age of 10 weeks, control health status of animals and individualize those wirhout 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, Mixte and GP C:** 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 | HYCOLE GP C |
|---|---|---|---|
| Testing | 5 kg minimum | 4.5 kg minimum | 4.0 kg minimum |
| Average adult weight | 6.5 to 7.5 kg | 5.5 to 6.5 kg | 4.7 to 5.5 kg |

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

- Water *ad libitum*

### 1.2) Lighting

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

### 1.3) Disease prevention

- The males delivered at the age of **10 weeks and more** are fully vaccinated against myxomatosis and the 2 forms of V.H.D. classic and variant (primary vaccination).
- Every 14 weeks make a vaccine recall against myxomatosis and every 26 weeks against the 2 forms of V.H.D. (classic and variant).
- Confirm treatments to be performed with your veterinarian (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

- Animals can be put into testing from **the age of 20 weeks.**
- 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 **every 2 weeks,** with 2 semens collection during the week of sampling.

- At the end of the testing period, the males who do not have any 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.

**For the White Male, it's recommended to use artificial vagina at temperature of 53-55°C.**

* 5 to 10 minutes prior to the semen collection, provide an excitement phase for males.

**For the White Male, it's advisable to collect directly the semen, without an excitation.**

## 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, control all the males** and cull those with problem or with poor results.

**The production period of a male is 2 years maximum.**