



TECHNICAL GUIDE

MALES FOR A.I. CENTRES

Fact No. 7.1

The HYCOLE males

The recommendations are fitted 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. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4).

* Distribute a growing feed.

* At the age of 10 weeks, control health status of animals and individualize those without 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.