

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING

SOP No:	ATT 013
SUBJECT:	Ultrasonography for Pregnancy Diagnosis in Cattle
POLICY:	This procedure may only be performed by or under the supervision of operators skilled in the technique
PRECAUTIONS:	Proper restraining facilities limiting animal movement are required to ensure operator's safety and speediness of the procedure Care must be taken to avoid perforation of the rectum by the hand or the probe.
EQUIPMENT:	Lubricant 3.5 or 5MHz scan transducer Ultrasound Scanner
PROCEDURE:	Animals are examined while restrained in a crush. The contents of the rectum are carefully emptied using a lubricated, gloved hand prior to insertion of the probe. The ultrasound probe is then carefully inserted into the rectum. The reproductive tract is located and the probe is moved over the uterine horns and body. The operator may determine pregnancy status, stage of gestation and number of foetuses. The operator may examine the uterine fluid, the embryo/foetus for viability and size and any other relevant features of the tract or conceptus. The ovaries may be located and examined for presence and size of normal follicles, corpora lutea or other significant structures.
RECOMMENDATIONS:	Cows should not be used on more than two consecutive days. Examinations on any single day should be limited to no more than 4 ultrasounds per day per cow. Each examination should be 5 minutes or less.
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REVISED:	

REFERENCES

1. Paul A. 2005. Standard Operating Procedures: Cattle Ultrasound Examination of Reproductive Tract. NSW Department of Primary Industries. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/research-teaching/policies/sop/cattle/ultrasound-reprod-tract>
2. Pregnancy Diagnosis in Cattle. 2004. Edited by S. Jephcott and S. Norman. Published by the Australian Association of Cattle Veterinarians.