

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES  
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING

**SOP No:** ATT 09

**SUBJECT:** Collection of Semen in Bulls by Electro-Ejaculation

**POLICY:** This procedure may only be performed by or under the supervision of operators skilled in the technique

**PRECAUTIONS:** Appropriated restraining facilities are required, particularly with bulls unfamiliar with the procedure.

**EQUIPMENT:** Electro-ejaculator  
Lubricant  
Palpation gloves  
Collection tubes  
Collection funnel and handle  
Scissors

**PROCEDURE:** The bull should be restrained in a suitable crush so that he cannot move from side-to-side or back-and forth, preferably not in a head bail with choke bars which may place too much pressure on the cervical spine. The crush must be able to be opened at the sides to permit the bull to regain his feet or be released if he becomes recumbent. The ground surface of the crush should provide good footing. The following protocol is recommended:

1. Begin with a rectal examination of the bull's internal organs and a gentle massage of these organs which will relax most bulls.
2. Using the largest rectal probe that can be comfortably accommodated (usually 75mm or 90mm), and keeping hold of it, commence stimulation at the lowest power setting.
3. Deliver a rhythmic stimulus - generally, on for 2-3 seconds, then off for about one second.
4. Gradually increase the power setting until the bull protrudes the penis or commences to ejaculate seminal fluid. The power may then be increased more rapidly to the point of ejaculation.
5. If the bull becomes agitated, stop stimulation and then increase the power more slowly than previously.
6. If a sample of semen is not collected, a further attempt may be made after a 5-15 minute interval.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** If collection is unsuccessful, rectal massage of the accessory glands may help to obtain a dilute semen sample

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**REVISED:**

#### REFERENCES

1. Paul A. (2005). Standard Operating Procedures: Cattle Collection of Semen (electro-ejaculation). NSW Department of Primary Industries. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/research-teaching/policies/sop/cattle/semen-collection-electro-ejaculation>