



Program Book

**14th Annual
Conference**
of The European Society
for Domestic Animal
Reproduction

**22nd Annual
meeting**
of EU-AI-Vets

15-18 September 2010
Eger, Hungary



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Effects of PGF_{2α} Administration at the Onset or the End of a Short-Term Progestagen Treatment in Serrana Goats

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EFFECTS OF PGF_{2α} ADMINISTRATION AT THE ONSET OR THE END OF A SHORT-TERM PROGESTAGEN TREATMENT IN SERRANA GOATS

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INTRODUCTION

The control of the reproduction activity plays an essential role in modern animal production systems allowing higher management flexibility and profitability. Short-term progestagens treatments are becoming increasingly popular. Nevertheless the best moment to administrate Prostaglandin F_{2α} (PGF_{2α}) is still in debate. The current study aims to assess the reproductive effects of PGF_{2α} injected at the onset or the end of a short-term progestagen treatment in Portuguese Serrana goats.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Date: May (beginning of the breeding season).

Location: Bragança – Portugal (latitude 41° 19' N, longitude 6° 40' W, altitude 720 meters).

Animals: 44 Serrana goats (5 were later rejected) – 3 to 7 years old.

Treatment:

- 20 mg of Fluorogestone Acetate (FGA) for 5 days (intravaginal sponge);
- 300 IU of equine Chorionic Gonadotrophin (eCG) at sponge withdraw;
 - 100 ug of cloprostenol (PGF_{2α}) at sponge insertion time (n = 17);
 - 100 ug of cloprostenol (PGF_{2α}) at sponge removal time (n = 22).

Oestrus detection: 4 intact bucks with harness marker.

Ovarian activity assessment:

- Blood samples for progesterone (P₄) determinations:
 - twice a week for two weeks before sponge insertion;
 - daily for 5 days after eCG injection.
- Transrectal ultrasound scanning for pregnancy diagnosis (41days after eCG administration).

RESULTS

TABLE I – Reproductive response of Serrana goats depending on the time of PGF_{2α} administration

Parameters	Sponge Insertion Time	Sponge Removal Time
Goats in estrus (%)	100.0% ^a	90.9% ^b
“Ovulated” goats (%)	100.0% ^a	95.5% ^b
(P ₄ >0.5 ng/ml)		
Pregnancy rate	100.0% ^a	90.9% ^b
Fertility rate	100.0% ^a	72.7% ^c
Prolificacy rate	2.1 ^a ± 0.8	2.2 ^a ± 0.8

a = a, for P>0.05; a ≠ b, for P<0.01; a ≠ c, for P<0.001.

CONCLUSION

Short-term FGA treatments may be used to synchronise the reproductive activity in Serrana goats and PGF_{2α} should be preferentially administrated at sponge insertion time.