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Update on donkey embryo transfer and cryopreservation

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7 Abstract:

Donkey species reproductive biotechnology studies had a dramatic increase after the Convention 8 9 of Biological Diversity that took place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992. The mechanization of agriculture of the 20th century took most of the developed countries donkey breeds close to 10 11 extinction and, after Rio, the development of effective reproductive programs to save them were 12 encouraged. Moreover, the recent interest in donkey milk, meat and skin products transformed 13 the donkey in a potential productive animal leading to the research and dissemination of desired productive tracts into its population. Amongst reproductive biotechnologies the production and 14 15 cryopreservation of embryos has a key role due to the possibility of producing and stocking valuable genetics potentially forever. Each species gametes and embryos from each species need 16 17 specific media and protocols due to their particular characteristics. After more than 10 years of 18 unsatisfactory results, embryo transfer and cryopreservation in the donkey moved from horse 19 protocols to procedures more specifically tailored to the donkey species

Nowadays pregnancy rates of 50% and 36% after the transfer of fresh and vitrified embryos,
respectively, is possible in this species.

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23 Keywords: Donkey, Embryo Transfer, Embryo cooling, Vitrification

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1. Introduction:

Embryo transfer (ET) is an assisted reproductive technique that consists in the transfer of one or more embryos from a female, called donor, to one or more females, called recipients [1]. Embryo transfer is a valuable tool able to maximize the reproductive potentialities of a female. Using this reproductive technology, we could be, theoretically, able to give birth to a living being for each ovulation of its mother throughout all of her reproductive life. To be eligible for this technique a female should be able to ovulate, the oocyte to be fertilized and the genital Download English Version:

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