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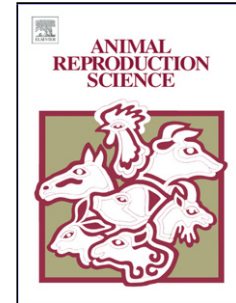
Title: Effect of prior insemination of dead sperm and gestation housing management on gilt fertility

Authors: C. Mazzoni, F. De Rensis, R.N. Kirkwood

PII: S0378-4320(18)30241-0

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anireprosci.2018.05.018>

Reference: ANIREP 5861



To appear in: *Animal Reproduction Science*

Received date: 11-3-2018

Revised date: 15-5-2018

Accepted date: 18-5-2018

Please cite this article as: Mazzoni C, De Rensis F, Kirkwood RN, Effect of prior insemination of dead sperm and gestation housing management on gilt fertility, *Animal Reproduction Science* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anireprosci.2018.05.018>

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Effect of prior insemination of dead sperm and gestation housing management on gilt fertility

Short title: Dead sperm insemination, gestation housing and gilt performance

C. Mazzone^a, F. De Rensis^{a,*}, R.N. Kirkwood^b

^aDepartment of Veterinary Medical Science, University of Parma, Parma, Italy

^bSchool of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, University of Adelaide, SA, Australia

*Corresponding author: Fabio De Rensis. Department of Veterinary Medical Science, University of Parma, Via del Taglio 10, 43126 Parma, Italy. E-mail: fabio.derensis@unipr.it

ABSTRACT

Danbred gilts at about 120 kg were group housed for estrous detection. At detection of estrus, gilts either remained in pens (P) or were re-housed into individual gestation stalls (S) and were inseminated (DS), or not (SC), with a dose of frozen/thawed dead semen. Groups were P-DS ($n = 81$), P-SC ($n = 70$), S-DS ($n = 98$) and S-SC ($n = 90$). All gilts were inseminated with semen containing viable sperm at the second detected estrus and 24 h later. Pregnant gilts that were stall housed were moved to pens 35 d after insemination. There were no effects of insemination or housing management on farrowing rates or litter sizes.

Key word: Gilts; Gestation housing; Dead sperm; Fertility

1. Introduction

With natural breeding sperm are deposited into the female reproductive tract with these cells being suspended in seminal plasma at the time of deposition. Although often thought of as merely a sperm transport medium, studies in pigs (Koch and Ellendorff, 1985; Gooneratne and Thacker, 1989;

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