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Variables affecting semen quality and its relation to fertility in the dog: A retrospective study.



Matteo Tesi, Chiara Sabatini, Iacopo Vannozzi, Gloria Di Petta, Duccio Panzani, Francesco Camillo, Alessandra Rota

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1 **VARIABLES AFFECTING SEMEN QUALITY AND ITS RELATION TO FERTILITY IN**
2 **THE DOG: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY.**

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4 Tesi Matteo, Sabatini Chiara, Vannozzi Iacopo, Di Petta Gloria¹, Panzani Duccio, Camillo Francesco,
5 Rota Alessandra

6

7 Department of Veterinary Sciences, University of Pisa, via livornese lato monte, 56122 San Piero a
8 Grado (PI).

9 ¹Current address: Ospedale Veterinario Leonardo da Vinci, via Leonardo da Vinci 232, 50059 Vinci
10 (FI).

11

12 **Corresponding author:** Matteo Tesi (matteo.tesi@vet.unipi.it)

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14 **KEY WORDS:** dog, ageing, semen evaluation, fertility.

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16 **Abstract**

17 Although semen analysis is routinely used to evaluate the male reproductive potential in the canine
18 species, only a few authors have attempted to relate semen characteristics to donor traits, such as age
19 or weight, and fertility. This study evaluated the effects of dogs' age (young: 0-24 months, adult: 25-
20 84 months, old: >84 months), size (small: <15 kg, medium: 16-40 kg, large: >40 kg) and reason for
21 semen collection (evaluation, artificial insemination, cryopreservation or research purposes) on the
22 seminal characteristics and related the main seminal characteristics with fresh AI results. Overall, 251
23 semen examinations were performed from 140 dogs presented between 2000 and 2015 at the
24 University of Pisa Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Conventional semen parameters (semen volume,
25 sperm concentration and total number, subjective motility and sperm morphology) were evaluated.
26 Overall, 227 (90.4%) samples contained spermatozoa. Azoospermic samples resulted from complete

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