

DISPENSARY EXAMINATION OF BREEDING BULLS

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Annotation

This article highlights the main principles, methods, and significance of the dispensary examination of pedigree bulls. It shows that dispensarization is carried out in two main directions: general clinical-physiological and surgical examinations. Clinical examinations analyze the condition of the reproductive organs, semen quality, metabolism, and microbiological control issues. During the surgical dispensarization process, the identification and prevention of traumas, skin, oral cavity, dental, eye, and hoof diseases in bulls are described. Additionally, the periodicity of orthopedic dispensarization, methods for diagnosing and preventing hoof diseases are discussed. The research results are of great importance for improving the health of pedigree bulls, enhancing their breeding quality, and ensuring their productivity.

Keywords

Pedigree bull, dispensarization, clinical examination, laboratory analysis, reproductive organs, prepuce, testicles, orthopedic dispensarization, metabolism, urine analysis, semen quality, microflora, surgical examination, hoof diseases, keratoconjunctivitis.

Dispensarization of pedigree bulls is carried out in two specialized shifts. In addition to the mentioned clinical and laboratory examinations, the scrotum, testicles, and the terminal part of the penis are inspected, while the accessory glands and ampullae of the seminal ducts are examined rectally. When inspecting the prepuce and scrotum, attention is paid to their size, trauma, swelling, discharges, erosions, and lesions on the skin and mucosa. Through palpation, the tactile and pain sensitivity of the scrotum as well as its local temperature are determined. The reproductive organ is palpated through the prepuce; in cases of

irregular thickening or nodules, external examination of the penis is carried out after anesthesia according to the V. Vovorin method or by injecting 3 ml of 2.5% Rompun solution. Tumors are surgically removed. In cases of acroposthitis and balanoposthitis, trichomoniasis and campylobacteriosis (vibriosis) are ruled out, and in cases of periorchitis, orchitis, epididymitis, or funiculitis, tuberculosis and brucellosis are differentiated. Special attention is given to the absence of one or both testicles (cryptorchidism, hermaphroditism).

During examination of the locomotor organs, the posture, limb configuration, movement before and after mating, limping type and degree, and hoof condition (fractures, shine, and shape) are observed. When necessary, the last caudal vertebrae are examined radiographically. The level of sexual reflexes and semen quality are determined. Every quarter, semen and preputial smears are microbiologically examined to identify the number and type of microorganisms. Semen contamination levels are classified as follows:

- Slight contamination: up to 0.1 thousand microbes per 1 ml of semen
- Weak contamination: up to 2 thousand microbes
- Moderate contamination: up to 5 thousand microbes
- Severe contamination: more than 5 thousand microbes

In addition to monitoring metabolism, the urine of bulls is analyzed every 15 days for ketone bodies and pH level. In healthy bulls, the average ketone body content is 4–6 mg%, and the pH ranges from 7.2 to 8.6. A ketone body concentration above 10–15 mg% and a shift in pH toward acidity or alkalinity indicate metabolic disorders. Based on clinical and physiological examinations, as well as biochemical analyses of blood, urine, and semen, the metabolic state of breeding bulls is determined, and corrective measures are taken if disorders are detected.

Surgical dispensarization involves identifying open and closed injuries, purulent and necrotic lesions, as well as diseases of the skin, oral cavity, teeth, eyes, and limbs. The examination includes orthopedic and clinical evaluation of the claws and hooves. During inspection, animals are observed at rest and in motion to detect skin integrity violations, body asymmetry, deformities, muscle or tendon abnormalities, and skeletal changes.

The nature, time of occurrence, contamination, and presence of foreign objects in injuries are noted.

During skin examination, areas of abrasion, hair loss, exfoliation of the epidermis, eczema, dermatitis, tumors, wounds, ulcers, perforations, folliculitis, and furunculosis are identified. Examination of the oral cavity and teeth involves evaluating feeding and chewing behavior, as these may indicate soft tissue or dental diseases. During inspection, attention is given to the head position while

eating, jaw area, and damaged regions. The teeth, chewing surfaces, and presence of fluorosis signs are observed. The most characteristic signs of the disease are symmetrical dental deformities, yellow-brown pigmentation, enamel erosion, loosening, and deformation of deciduous teeth.

Eye examination involves observing tear discharge (color, consistency), eyelid skin (swelling, bleeding, tumors, dermatitis), and presence of foreign bodies. In cases of infectious keratoconjunctivitis, laboratory tests are performed. In rickettsial keratoconjunctivitis, epithelial changes are detected in conjunctival smears; in infectious keratoconjunctivitis, microbiological tests are carried out to identify the causative agent; in invasive keratoconjunctivitis, washing of the conjunctival sac reveals *Thelazia* parasites; and in infectious rhinotracheitis (ocular form), blood serum (every 10 days, twice total), conjunctival, and corneal samples are tested for viral presence.

Limb examination is carried out while the animal is calm or moving. Attention is paid to weight-bearing, joint angles, muscle tone, partial or complete paralysis, joint condition, tendons, synovial sheaths, and bursae. Hoof examination assesses limb posture, alignment, hoof angle, horn wall, heel, and sole condition (color, shine, cracks, necrotic changes), and skeletal or joint pathology. In cases of hoof deformation, clinical and radiographic examinations are performed to detect osteodystrophy. In purulent-necrotic hoof inflammations, bacteriological and diagnostic tests are conducted. Orthopedic dispensarization is carried out twice a year (in April and October), and additionally once per quarter if hoof diseases occur. The frequency, type, and date of the last hoof trimming are recorded. Moreover, housing and feeding conditions, barn type, flooring, stall design, manure removal system, bedding, productivity level, exercise duration, disinfection and sanitation routines are taken into account.

Conclusion

Dispensarization of pedigree bulls is one of the key steps in ensuring healthy and highly productive breeding in livestock farms. Research shows that regular dispensary examination of bulls allows monitoring their health condition, preventing hereditary diseases, and improving breeding quality. Based on the obtained results, it can be concluded that systematic dispensarization of pedigree bulls contributes to:

- accurate assessment of their reproductive potential,
- early detection of diseases,
- improvement of breeding quality,
- and enhancement of economic efficiency in livestock farms.

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