



STALLION SCROTAL CALIPER USER GUIDE

P/N 549A-101



INTRODUCTION

The Stallion Scrotal Caliper (Part No. 549A-101) is designed to measure total scrotal width (T.S.W.), which includes both testes. It also can be used to measure the length and width of each testis. Since T.S.W. provides a reasonably accurate estimate of testicular size, it is the measurement most commonly used during a fertility examination.

The number of spermatozoa that a stallion is capable of producing depends largely on amount of functional testicular tissue. Therefore, testicular size becomes an important factor in selecting and managing a stallion for maximum reproductive efficiency. Assuming testicular consistency is satisfactory, T.S.W. can be used to estimate sperm production and output. This aids in identifying individual stallions with a potentially high or low sperm production, which assists in the prediction of how many mares can be bred in natural or artificial insemination (A.I.) programs. Testicular size varies primarily with

age, health and season of the year. Therefore, for prudent management, a breeding stallion's T.S.W. should be measured once per month and the results added to the stallion's permanent medical record. For maximal benefit, the estimate must be accompanied by the results of a testicular palpation. The description of each palpated testis could include: normal, soft, firm, hard, inconsistent, nodular, lobulated, ribbed, veined (slightly or heavily), degenerating, small, large, slick, rotated, rough, constrictions, flat, irregular, high and/or missing.

The Stallion Scrotal Caliper is made of a light-weight, durable plastic. The scale is in centimeters and ranges from 5 to 15 in graduations of 0.2 centimeters. The T.S.W. of normal stallions, averaged across breed, age and season, is 10.8 centimeters (1 centimeter = 10 millimeters and 2.54 centimeters = 1 inch).

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

IMPORTANT: A minimum of two experienced handlers should be present when taking measurements of the stallion's scrotum.

To obtain the most accurate measurements, the following technique is recommended:

1. Place the thumb and middle finger of the right hand into the holes in the Stallion Scrotal Caliper.
2. Open the Stallion Scrotal Caliper by pressing outward with thumb and finger. If the scrotal calipers do not move easily, or alternatively do not hold their position, adjust the caliper by tightening or loosening the black knob.
3. Approach the stallion, which is adequately restrained by the second handler. Position yourself on the left side of the stallion with your back towards the stallion's head and your left shoulder leaning into the stallion's side.
4. With your left hand, gently grasp the stallion's scrotal sac. Force both testes into the ventral (toward the ground) portion of the scrotum. If the stallion's retractory muscles are not fully relaxed, an erroneous measurement will be obtained.
5. Care must be taken to align the scrotum with the long axis of the stallion's body. Rotation of the scrotum will result in an erroneous measurement.
6. Locate the greatest curvature of the scrotum on the right side with the little finger of the left hand, the greatest curvature of the scrotum on the left side is located visually.
7. Rotate the right hand, holding the Stallion Scrotal Caliper, until it is at a right angle to the scrotum.
8. Place the tips of the Stallion Scrotal Caliper on the greatest curvature of the right and left testes. The pressure on the scrotum should be minimal to obtain an accurate measurement.
9. Remove the scrotal caliper from the scrotal sac without changing the measurement. Read the distance between the tips from the centimeter scale on the Stallion Scrotal Caliper. This is T.S.W. in centimeters.
10. It is recommended that at least three measurements be taken, one after another, to minimize error.

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