

SPERM MORPHOLOGY AND FERTILITY IN ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BOARS

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Summary. The objective of this study was to investigate quality of semen and to determine the relationships between semen quality and fertility in the different pig breeds. Twelve boars were randomly selected at Joint stock company "Lekėčiai", Lithuania. Quality of 47 ejaculates was assessed and reproductive data from 209 sows were included into the analysis. None of initial semen quality parameters showed significant correlation with non-return rate % or litter size. Only some of semen quality traits (morphological defects) of the spermatozoa - loose abnormal heads, short broad, big head and acrosomal defects correlated significantly with non-return rate % and the litter size. Semen quality parameters differed significantly between the breeds. Danish Landrace boars, compared to the boars of Duroc breed, had lower incidence of pathological spermatozoa in their semen ($P < 0.001$), but higher percentage of sows conceived.

Keywords: boar, semen, non-return rate, litter size.