

# SVS Ram Pre-Breeding Examination Certificate



Date of Examination: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner	
Address	

RAM	Ear tag:
	Breed:
	Date of birth/age:

**Reason for examination:** Pre-sale check  Pre-breeding check  Examination for insurance purpose

## 1. Physical examination

Body condition score (1-5)		
	NAD	Abnormal
Eyes, nose and mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heart/lungs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conformation and limb soundness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
External genitalia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scrotal circumference	cm	
Overall results: Satisfactory* / Unsatisfactory*		

*NAD = No Abnormality detected, \*delete as required*

## 4. Classification

In my opinion, in terms of the standards outlined on the reverse of this certificate and outcomes detailed on the ram pre-breeding examination checklist, the findings would indicate that on this date the ram identified above is:

SUITABLE FOR BREEDING\* (based on meeting the requirements of section 1 only)

SUITABLE FOR BREEDING\* (based on meeting the requirements of sections 1 and 2 only)

SUITABLE FOR BREEDING\* (based on meeting the requirements of sections 1, 2 and 3)

UNSUITABLE FOR BREEDING\*

Note: This certificate does not include any testing for infectious/contagious diseases, the results of which should be reported separately

## COMMENTS

## 2. Semen examination

Collection method	AV*	EEJ *
Appearance/density	/5	
Gross motility	/5	
Progressive motility	%	
Morphologically normal sperm	%	Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/>
Overall results: Satisfactory* / Unsatisfactory*		

## 3. Assessment of mating ability

This ram has/has not\* been observed exhibiting normal service behaviour and mating ability

Name of Veterinary Surgeon: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice stamp/address:

Certificate No: \_\_\_\_\_



# Sheep Veterinary Society Pre-Breeding Examination - Certification Guidelines



The aim of this certificate is not to guarantee ram fertility but to reduce the risk of potentially unsuitable rams being used for breeding. A ram that meets the requirements for section 1 and 2 should have no obvious physical abnormality that would render it unsuitable for natural service, and have the potential to be fully fertile based on semen quality.

## Section 1: PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

To meet the requirements of this section the ram will demonstrate freedom from significant physical defects that could affect fertility or the ability to mate and freedom from heritable defects that could affect progeny.

### Body condition score

Should be assessed on a 1-5 scale where 1 is very thin and 5 is obese. Rams in very thin body condition score, 2 or less, should be classified as unsatisfactory.

### Eyes, nose & mouth

Rams should be inspected for severe over or undershot jaw and gross defects, which may interfere with vision and the ability to seek out females.

### Heart/lungs

The heart and lungs should be auscultated.

### Conformation and limb soundness

Rams should be inspected for evidence of lameness whilst walking on a smooth level surface. Lamé rams or rams with severe limb defects e.g. valgus deformity or elbow arthritis should be classified as unsatisfactory in section 1.

### Feet

Rams with evidence of a foot defect (eg interdigital fibroma) or active or chronic foot lesions (eg foot rot or CODD) should be classified as unsatisfactory in section 1.

### External genitalia

The scrotum and contents should be carefully palpated. Rams with gross physical abnormalities such as epididymitis or orchitis would be classed unsatisfactory in section 1. Slight variation in size and position of testicles is acceptable though breed standards may vary, and rams may be rejected at pre-sale society inspections if variation in size or shape is present.

The prepuce and penis should be palpated for swellings, adhesions, discharges etc. The tip of the penis should be inspected for normality and if it has not been visualised during semen collection this should be noted in "comments".

### Testicular size

Measurements are to be made in cm at the widest point of the scrotum preferably with a tensioned measuring tape (eg Reliabull) Breed society standards, where published, should be used as minimum SC standards to meet the requirements of this part of the examination.

Where there are no breed standards, SC standards given below are suggested as minimum acceptable scrotal circumference within 3 weeks of breeding.

	Ram lamb (< 1yr)	Shearling ram (1-2yr)	Mature ram (>2yr)
Down or longwool	30cm	32cm	36cm
Hill breeds	28cm	30cm	34cm

*NB: This certificate should be used in conjunction with the SVS Ram PBE data collection form.*

*Neither document includes any assessment of health status with respect to infectious diseases (e.g. MV, Border Disease) which should be reported separately.*

## Section 2: SEMEN EVALUATION

**Equipment** - All vessels/slides used to handle semen should be warmed prior to use to 30-37°C & the microscope stage kept at 35-37°C. The semen sample should not be exposed to 'cold shock' or any sudden change of temperature. It should also not come into contact with water, contamination, disinfectants, detergents, lubricant gel or metal.

The semen samples must meet a minimum set of standards as detailed below.

### Gross Motility and Density

A drop of undiluted semen is placed on a warm slide and viewed under low power. Both parameters are scored on a 1-5 scale and a good semen sample would normally score at least 3 in either category. However, samples collected by electro-ejaculate may acceptably score as low as a 2 for density (assuming good motility)

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5
Density	Clear water	Cloudy water	Skimmed Milk	Full milk	Single Cream	Thick cream
Motility	Dead	No swirl	Very slow swirl	Slow distinct swirl	Pretty fast swirl	Rapid dense swirl

### Individual Progressive Motility

Progressive motility should be estimated preferably using phase-contrast or otherwise with a green filter & low condenser with bright field microscopy. Acceptable progressive motility should exceed 60%.

### Semen Morphology

Morphology should be checked on a stained smear (5% nigrosin & 1% eosin or 1% trypan blue) under x1000 oil immersion. A tiny drop of semen is added to a drop of warm stain on a slide and mixed for a few minutes. To meet the requirement of this section, 70% or more sperm should be morphologically normal with no more than 20% showing nuclear defects. In marginal cases (60-80%) at least two counts of 100 sperm should be undertaken. Rams with no apparent physical abnormality of genitalia but with a poor semen sample collected by electro-ejaculation, should be classed as unsatisfactory but with a note in the comment section for a retest after at least a week. A fertile ram may produce poor samples on electro-ejaculation (Edgar 1959).

## Section 3: ASSESSMENT OF MATING ABILITY

Libido is difficult to assess and define, so this part of the examination simply confirms whether the vet has observed normal service behaviour and intromission when the ram was presented with females in oestrus.

At least one successful service within 10 minutes of being presented to in-oestrous female should be expected. If this part of the examination is not carried out, then rams can still be classified as SUITABLE FOR BREEDING based on meeting the requirements of parts 1 and 2 only. The onus is on the owner/purchaser to observe the ram closely at the start of breeding period to monitor libido and mating ability.

## Section 4: CLASSIFICATION

Any ram classified as SUITABLE FOR BREEDING must meet the requirements of the physical examination and achieve minimum standards for scrotal circumference, progressive motility (60%) and sperm morphology (70%).