# COMPARISON OF SEMEN COLLECTION METHODS IN AN AMBULATORY INDIAN RHINOCEROS (Rhinoceros Unicornis)

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Artificial manipulation of the reproduction of rhinoceroses is essential to accelerate the propagation of these animals in captivity. Semen collection is a prerequisite of these manipulative procedures. In this report, several collection methods and the conditions influencing the animal during collections were investigated in the indian rhinoceros. These methods included penile stimulation by massaging the penis directly, or through use of artificial vaginas (AV) and rectal stimulation by massaging accessory glands via the rectum or electroejaculation (EE). Electroejaculation was successfully applied to the rhinoceros with a new inflatable probe and hand-held ring electrodes. Penile massage was the most consistently successful in the acquisition of seminal fluid. However, coupled with rectal stimulation, fluids with higher numbers of sperm were recovered. Collection of semen by these methods was facilitated by reducing noise and distractions around the animal and changing the methodology frequently. With careful handling and application of these semen collection procedures, viable semen samples were collected for use in fertility analyses and cryopreservation.