

AABP POSITION STATEMENT

TRANSRECTAL PALPATION AND ULTRASOUND



Transrectal examination of the bovine reproductive tract, by palpation or ultrasound, constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine. These techniques should be performed by or under supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Examination and assessment of the bovine reproductive tract is a skilled diagnostic procedure. It requires integrative knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathology to perform safely and proficiently. During the course of the examination, it is expected that the veterinarian will make an accurate diagnosis of pregnancy status, estimate stage of gestation if pregnant, and identify pathologic conditions present. The veterinarian is uniquely qualified through education and training to assess on-farm animal husbandry parameters related to reproductive health and make management recommendations after assessment of the diagnostic records.

Following the diagnostic procedure, it may be necessary to prescribe a pharmacologic treatment in order to support individual animal and overall herd health, well-being and productivity. Pharmacological treatments should be under the oversight of the veterinarian of record identified in the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship, which necessitates veterinary involvement in reproductive assessment of the cow or cowherd.

Establishing and Maintaining the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship in Bovine Practice
https://aabp.org/resources/aabp_guidelines/vcprguidelinefinal11-2013.2.pdf

Approved by the AABP Board of Directors 2019