# EVALUATION OF EQUINE EMBRYOS

## EMBRYO QUALITY or GRADE (4-Point Scale)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>No abnormalities observed; spherical in shape; cells of uniform size, color and texture; size and developmental stage appropriate for age post-ovulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Minor imperfections, such as a few extruded blastomeres or debris; slight irregularities in shape, size, color, or texture; limited separation between trophoblast layer and zona pellucida or capsule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fair to Poor</td>
<td>Moderate level of imperfections, such as a larger percentage of extruded or degenerated blastomeres or debris; partial collapse of blastocoele; or moderate shrinkage of trophoblast from zona pellucida or capsule</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Degenerate or Dead</td>
<td>Severe problems easily identified, such as a high percentage of extruded blastomeres, complete collapse of blastocoele, rupture of zona pellucida and/or capsule, or complete degeneration and embryonic death</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UFO**

- **UFO**
- Unfertilized oocyte

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**Grade 1 Blastocyst**

**Grade 2 Blastocyst**

**Grade 3 Morula**

**Grade 4**

**Grade 2 Morula (sperm in zona pellucida)**

**Grade 1 Early Blastocyst (cells attached)**

**Blastocyst (debris attached)**

**Non-Embryo (cell mass)**

**Non-Embryo (urine crystal and debris)**

**Size Determination (µm)**

**Unfertilized Oocyte**

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