

## **SOME EARLY BEHAVIOUR ELEMENTS OF IMMEDIATELY WEANED AND ARTIFICIALLY REARED AWASSI LAMBS**

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### **SUMMARY**

This study investigates the daily activity, development of biorhythms, presence of abnormal oral behaviours (cross-sucking, pen-sucking) and early ranking of immediately separated Awassi lambs (n=24), during the first three days after grouping. Animals were kept in a four meters long and two meters wide pen. Lambs were fed with colostrums in the first two days. From the third life day, the animals got also milk powder, and its percentage was continuously increasing as the time goes. Comparing the graphs of lambs' activity at the three days of investigation, it was found that there was no unambiguous repetition (periodicity) in the behaviour of the animals on the first day. The lambs conformed themselves on the second and third days of the investigation to the different technological steps (e.g. preparing for feeding, cleaning, scaling) to a certain extent, and their activity was changing according to the stockpersons' operations. Two very intensive periods (87-92% of the animals were active) soon before feeding (7.15 am and 12.15 pm), and two passive periods after feeding (0% activity) were observed on both days. According to the human assistance, on the first day of investigation, stockpersons had to help finding and using the teats for 87.5% of the lambs (n=21), one by one. This value became lower (54.2% and 33.3%) on the second and third days, and it was only 20-25% at the end of the investigation (n=5-6). The lambs were adapted continuously to the artificial milk replacer and plastic teats.

**Keywords:** *lamb, artificial rearing, behaviour.*