Successful cryopreservation of African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) spermatozoa: Towards developing the frozen zoo.

F. Van den Berghe[1,2], M.C.J. Paris[1,2,3], Z. Sarnyai[1], M.B. Briggs[4], W.K. Farstad[5] and D.B.B.P. Paris[1]

[1]College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, James Cook University, Townsville, QLD, Australia

[2]Institute for Breeding Rare and Endangered African Mammals, Edinburgh, UK

[3]Wageningen Livestock Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands

[4]African Predator Conservation Research Organisation, Bolingbrook, Illinois, USA

[5]Department of Production Animal Clinical Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Oslo, Norway

Sperm freezing and artificial insemination can aid species management and conservation of the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*). Freezing attempts have previously been unsuccessful with sperm motility dropping to nearly 0% within 2 h of thawing. We examined the quality of wild dog spermatozoa subjected to 2 routine canine cryopreservation protocols: 1) 1-step dilution in TRIS-egg yolk extender containing 8% glycerol and 20% egg yolk; and 2) 2-step dilution in TRIS-egg yolk extender to a final concentration of 5% glycerol, 20% egg yolk and 0.5% Equex STM. Protocol 2 showed a significantly higher post-thaw viability, acrosome integrity and longevity of spermatozoa with motility present for up to 8 h after thawing; making it suitable for sperm banking and downstream use in species management by artificial insemination for the first time.