Trough or bowl? Observers need training for assessing resource as well as clinical parameters


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Background & Aim
The need for training observers for clinical assessment has been recognised, but the assessment of husbandry resources is often regarded as self-explanatory.

> share experiences from training observers with different levels of experience and from different countries in assessing clinical & resource parameters

Conclusions: tips for training

> include resource parameters in observer trainings
> prepare detailed definitions with pictures
> discuss parameters in real life training sessions
> assign sufficient time for training (several days)

Methods

> international project ProPIG
> 7 observers from 7 countries
> trained (1 - 2 days) and tested (T) by experienced observer (gold standard)

Results

> \( r_{\text{Spearman}} \) (below) and % agreement (right) varied for both clinical and resource parameters
> 80 % agreement and \( r > 0.7 \) were regarded as sufficient

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