4th International VET*Istanbul* Group Congress

ABSTRACT BOOK

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DOMINANCE HIERARCHY AND BODY WEIGHT, BODY MEASUREMENTS AND TESTOSTERONE LEVEL IN HEMSIN, CHIOS AND KARAKUL RAMS

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There is a well-organized dominance hierarchy between livestock animals and individuals' rank of getting use of sources is determined by dominance and recessive relationships. In Turkey there are various local sheep breeds which have adapted to feeding facilities and climatic conditions where they live and they have significant differences in terms of body size and morphological traits. The principal aim of the present study was to determine the relationships of dominance hierarchy with body weight, certain body measurements, horn size and testosterone level in Hemsin, Chios and Karakul rams. To describe the dominance hierarchy, dominance index (DI) and social rank parameters were used.

The study was conducted in a fattening unit which belongs to Istanbul University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Avcılar campus. The boxes with 21 m^2 space were supplied for each of the Hemsin, Chios and Karakul breeds. 13 Hemsin, 12 Chios and 14 Karakul rams were established as the study material. To present the dominance and recessive status in each breed 'Food Competition Test' was applied and dominant rams were determined according to their ability to eliminate other ram's achievement to reach to feed trough for >1 minute and also to be able to consume feed in this process. DI of an animal was calculated by the ratio of the number of animals which w dominated by an individual in relation to all animals with which it has interacted. To describe the social rank in a breed, David's Score method was applied.

DI was significantly correlated with body weight ($r=0.778$; $P<0.01$), chest depth ($r=0.624$; $P<0.05$) and tail width ($r=0.699$; $P<0.01$) in Hemsin rams. Similarly, social rank of Hemsin rams has also significant correlation with body weight ($r=-0.737$; $P<0.01$), chest depth ($r=-0.714$; $P<0.01$), cannon circumference ($r=-0.609$; $P<0.05$) and tail width ($r=-0.651$; $P<0.01$).

While DI of Chios rams was significantly correlated with body weight ($r=0.634$; $P<0.05$) and linear horn length ($r=0.580$; $P<0.05$), social rank of rams from this breed was only correlated with body weight ($r=-0.711$; $P<0.01$).

DI and social rank were not significantly correlated with body weight in Karakul rams. Both DI and social rank in this breed has significant correlation with rump width ($r=0.613$; $P<0.01$ for DI; $r=-0.544$; $P<0.05$ for social rank) and linear horn length ($r=0.537$; $P<0.05$ for DI; $r=-0.623$; $P<0.05$ for social rank). Results obtained in the current study indicate that criteria, which determines social hierarchy, changes due to the breed of ram.