Parturition \(\rightarrow\) Group allocation (metritis, healthy) days 4 to 21 after parturition: (three times a week)
- transrectal uterine palpation with assessment of uterine involution until day 21 after parturition
- examination of uterine discharge released from the vulva during transrectal examination days 4, 8, 11 after parturition:
  - vaginoscopy

**Experimental design cyclic CL**
(Time schedule of examinations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Procedures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1\(^{st}\)  | diestrus\(^a,\ast\) | - determination of luteal size  
|             |          | - blood sample                                  |
| 2\(^{nd}\)  | estrus   | - endometrial biopsy                            |
|             | diestrus\(^a,\ast\) | - determination of luteal size  
|             |          | - blood sample                                  
|             |          | - luteal biopsy                                 |
| 3\(^{rd}\)  | estrus   | - endometrial biopsy                            |
|             | diestrus\(^\ast\)  |                                                 |
| 4\(^{th}\)  | diestrus\(^a,\ast\) | - determination of luteal size  
|             |          | - blood sample                                  
|             |          | - luteal biopsy                                 |

**Experimental design persistent CL**
(Time schedule of examinations)

in case of a persistent CL\(^b\): (no signs of luteolysis at the end of cycle)

- determination of luteal size  
- blood sample  
- luteal biopsy  
- application of cloprostenol

following diestrus\(^a\) (of the induced cycle)

- determination of luteal size  
- blood sample  
- luteal biopsy

\(^a\) once between day 9 and 13 of cycle  
\(^b\) once between day 29 and 33 of cycle  
\(*\) in case of a persistent CL \(\rightarrow\) Experimental design persistent CL