Acknowledgement

“Success comes through efforts and determination”. Learning is the precious debt to acknowledge. It is a great privilege to pay tribute to my teachers whom I admire for guiding me through my study period. This thesis is the result of two years of work wherein I have been accompanied and supported by many people.

I take this opportunity to extend my deep sense of gratitude and words of appreciation towards those who helped me in the pursuit of my present study. I remember oceans of guidance, support and encouragement from innumerable sources.

Words are inadequate to circumscribe the feelings and regards emanating from my heart for my guide Dr. J.M.Harsoda, Professor and Head, Department Physiology, Smt. B K Shah Medical Institute and Research Centre, Pipariya-Baroda, for planning this work, entire help, valuable guidance, perfect technical suggestions, precise approach and healthy encouragement.

I gratefully acknowledge Dr. G V Shah, (Dean), Smt. B K Shah Medical Institute and Research Centre, Piparia, who made a backbone of this research and this thesis. His involvement with his originality has triggered and nourished my intellectual maturity. His true scientist intuition has made him a constant oasis of ideas, which exceptionally inspired and enriched my growth as a student. I am indebted to him.
I also wish to record my thanks to Dr. Jayshree Mehta, EX. Vice Chancellor of Sumandeep University, Pipariya for providing me the opportunity to pursue higher studies from such a prestigious institute.

I deem it a great privilege to express my deepest sense of profound gratitude to Dr Tarun Das, Professor and Head, Department of Physiology, Post Graduate College of Medical research, Epica, Jharka for his interest and help, benevolent suggestions, hearted encouragement and painstaking research.

I would like to express my respect and gratitude to my father in law, Dr. M M Patel, Rtd. Professor and Head, Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Sardar Krushi Nagar, Gujarat Agricultural University, Dantiwada for his able guidance. His perpetual energy and enthusiasm motivated and inspired me to carry out my study. In addition, he was always accessible and willing to help with proof checking and providing references and invaluable inputs from his vast ocean of knowledge and experience. This thesis was simply impossible without his blessings

I am thankful to Dr Geeta Hathi, for her valuable suggestions, timely help and constant inspirations. I am indeed thankful to Dr. U I Bhatt, Smt. B K Shah Medical Institute and Research Centre for his kind counsel whenever necessary.

I am indeed thankful to Dr. C K Das, Principal and all the staff members of the Gujarat Homoeopathic Medical College, Savli, Dist. Baroda for providing lively, friendly and encouraging atmosphere throughout the period of my study.
I gratefully acknowledge and offer a special thanks to Dr R B Prajapati for the help and technical guidance that shaped my research work into grand success.

My thanks are also due to Dr. D N Rank, Professor and Head, Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry AAU, Anand and Dr. R S Joshi, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry AAU, Anand. Who personally took interest in statistical analysis and graphical presentation of the data that made this work worthwhile.

I would also like to thank Dr. Prachi Sharma, Mr. Dhruvil Patel and Mr. Sharad Brahmbhatt who was always ready to edit my thesis and always ready to help me at almost any time.

Friends are the integral part of life and without them life is vague. I cannot forget the love and affections received from Dr. J J Patel, Dr. P T Patel, Dr. Jatin Sheth, Dr. Kamlesh Patel, Mr. Manoj Brahmbhatt, Mr. A A Dashadawala, and Mr. Pankaj Patel I acknowledge all of them for the depth of my heart for their help and support throughout my life.

It is very hard to put in words the efforts and support received from my beloved students and volunteers who truly followed what I desire, despite of difficulties. Just cannot forget the dedication they have shown, never said ‘NO’ whenever they were called upon. It was their devotion rather than compulsion to participate in this research project. I take note of it and express my vote of thanks to all.
I would take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to my family. My wife Rajeshwari Patel, for her love, kindness and support she has shown during the last one or two years it has taken to finalize the thesis and my children Dr. Udit Patel and Kairavi Patel, who have the attitude and substance of a genius; my son who continually and convincingly conveyed a spirit of adventure as regard to research and whose stimulating suggestions and encouragement helped me immensely.

Above all, I am highly thankful to the “Almighty” for providing me enough strength and courage to reach to this stage.

A. C. Patel, M. Sc (Med)