

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
LABORATORY ANIMAL RESEARCH

SOP No: AHT 27(d)

SUBJECT: Ear Notching in Rodents (May 2015)

POLICY: Where it is necessary to permanently identify mice, the least painful method must be used.
This procedure must be performed by an experienced operator.
Animals must be fully developed

PRECAUTIONS: Gloves, mask, long-sleeve gown, closed in shoes

EQUIPMENT hole punch

PROCEDURE:

1. Hold the mice by the scruff or anaesthetize mouse.
2. Pick up and position the ear punch tool at the appropriate portion of the ear at the cutting end of the tool.
3. Quickly depress the punch tool cutting a hole or notch in the ear.
4. Ensure that the ear is cut completely through, so that the cut piece of skin is totally removed from the ear.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Consider alternative sources of identification (tattoo, microchip)
2. Sterilize the tool between punches and animals

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CHAIR OF AEC

REFERENCES

1. Methods of Identification in *Handbook of Laboratory Animal Science 2nd Edition*; Vol I Essential Principles and Practices, (2002) Edited by J. Hau and G.L. VanHoosier, Jr., CRC Press, pp363-365
2. Methods for the Identification of Laboratory Mice and Rats. (1998) Weyand, M.E. *Lab Animal*, 27:47-50