

SOP No: AHT 27(c)

SUBJECT: Tattooing in rodents (May 2015)

POLICY: Where it is necessary to permanently identify rodents, the least painful method must be used.
This procedure must be performed by an experienced operator.
Rodents >21 days must be anaesthetised.

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

EQUIPMENT tattoo ink/paste
Applicator with needles
anaesthetic (for mice >21 days).

PROCEDURE:

1. Restrain animals or anaesthetise.
2. Disinfect the skin and tattoo needles

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Consider alternative sources of identification (pen, microchip)
2. Tattooing is the preferred method for identifying neonatal mice but may also be used to mark weanling and older mice
3. The tattoo should be placed on the tail, toe, or ear.
4. Always discard used needles

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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. Identification of new-born rats by tattooing (1989) *Lab Anim* 23 (4) 361-364
3. Gopee NV, Cui Y, Olson G, Warbritton AR, Miller BJ, Couch LH, Wamer WG, Howard PC. (2005) Response of mouse skin to tattooing: use of SKH-1 mice as a surrogate model for human tattooing. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol.* 1;209(2):145-58.