

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
LABORATORY ANIMAL RESEARCH

- SOP No:** AHT 31
- SUBJECT:** Tail Bleed (Mouse)
- DATE:** 19.02.2015
- POLICY:** Tail bleeding may only be performed once unless otherwise approved by the AEC. Animals aged over 21 days must be anaesthetized.
- PRECAUTIONS:** Gloves, eye protection, long-sleeved gown, closed in shoes.
- EQUIPMENT:** Heat lamp
Scalpel blade
Collection tube
Restraint
- PROCEDURE:**
1. Warm animals by placing cage under a heat lamp for 10 – 15 mins. **DO NOT LEAVE UNATTENDED**
 2. Place mouse in restrainer or restrain manually using preferred holding style.
 3. Cut off 2-3mm of tip of the tail using the scalpel blade or nick the lateral vein with the scalpel.
 4. Place tip of tail in the collection tube or onto a slide. Assist the flow of blood by gently running the thumb and forefinger down the tail from the base to the tip or to the level of the nick.
 5. When desired amount is collected (no more than 200µl) apply pressure to the tip with a swab to encourage clotting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. If multiple blood samples are required (subject to AEC approval), it may be necessary to remove the developing scab.
2. Local anaesthetic may be considered for use on the wound.

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CHAIR OF AEC

REFERENCES

1. Perspectives on Animal Use Biological Effects of Blood Loss: Implications for Sampling Volumes and Techniques. In: ILAR News (1989), 31(4).
2. Removal of blood from laboratory mammals and birds: First report of the BVA/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint working group on refinement. Lab Anim (1993) 27, 1-22.
3. J. Donovan and P. Brown. Blood Collection. In: Current Protocols in Immunology, (eds: A. Kruisbeek et al), John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY, USA, Unit 1.7.