

- SOP No:** AHT 59
- SUBJECT:** Blood collection from the ear vein in pigs under 50kgs (March 2015)
- REASON FOR USE:** This procedure allows blood to be obtained with the animal standing to minimize the stress of restraint.
- POLICY:** Operator must be very experienced and competent at this technique
- PRECAUTIONS:** Overalls, steel-capped boots, gloves, ear protection.  
Safety protection glasses  
Second operator
- Methods of restraint will be dependent upon the size and age of each animal and the pen size available.
- EQUIPMENT:**
- Sedative of choice for I/M injection
  - Injection materials: 20ml Luer lock syringe, 50cm injection tubing, 21 gauge needle
  - 70% ethanol
  - Swabs
  - 24 g cannula for blood collection
  - Blood collection tubes
  - Trolley
- PROCEDURE:**
- Weigh pig or estimate according to average weight at specific age charts.
  - Draw sedative into 20ml Luer lock syringe and connect to 50cm injection tubing. Attach a 21 gauge needle and secure to the far end of tube.
  - Stand in centre of pen and prepare syringe in one hand and needle in other. Quickly insert needle into the muscular neck region (located behind each ear to shoulder blades) and inject the calculated dose.  
\*NOTE: maximum of 12mls in a single injection site. Rotate your position in centre of pen so as to prevent the needle being pulled out as the pig moves.
  - Remove needle and exit pen.
  - When the pig is sedated (approx 5-15mins), enter pen and move pig onto a pump up trolley and remove from the holding room.
  - Small pigs (under 50kg) can be restrained with the animal against a wall and applying pressure with the knee. Restrain larger animals with a snout rope.

- Swab the injection site with 70% ethanol
- Place a finger over a prominent ear vein downstream of the injection site to make the vein more visible. Insert a 24 gauge cannula into the vein ear vein
- Remove the needle from the cannula and allow blood to drip into the blood collection tube. If it is a non-clotting/EDTA tube and the blood is flowing being collected slowly, you may need to intermittently mix the blood in the tube to ensure it doesn't clot.
- Apply pressure with a swab when finished until bleeding stops and return the animal to the pen.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**DATE ISSUED:** 28.04.2009

**REVISED:** 18.07.2012  
18.03.2015



CHAIR OF AEC

**REFERENCES**