SOP No: ATT 083

SUBJECT: Restrain sheep using a sheep handler

DATE: 18.02.2015

REASON FOR USE: The purpose of this procedure is to hold sheep in a safe and secure position to allow treatment/husbandry of the animal, e.g. for inspection of hooves, crutching and shearing, weighing and identification.

POLICY: Minimum of one operator required
Demonstrator: competence in this procedure
Students: competence in handling sheep (see SOP ATT 081 Yarding, catching and handling sheep), familiarity with sheep anatomy.

PRECAUTIONS:
- Wear sturdy footwear, use sun protection when outside
- Sheep should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure
- Sheep should not be overcrowded in yards
- Specific personal risk issues to be aware of include: using correct positions and handling to avoid back strain, using care to avoid cuts from the shears
- Be aware of the animal’s reaction to the procedure (crush injuries, kicking).
- Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals.

EQUIPMENT: Yards, sheep handler.

PROCEDURE:
1. Make sure that the handler is properly maintained and is ready for use. Adjust the height and width of the handler to suit the sheep to be restrained. Make sure, for each animal, that the handler is adjusted so the sheep’s legs do not get caught when turning the sheep over.
2. Pen the required number of sheep by confining a group in the race leading to the handler. Avoid over-crowding.
3. Walk sheep along race to sheep handler, encourage sheep to enter handler.
4. Use the handler to position sheep for the required procedure.
5. Release the sheep from the handler and allow it to walk away into holding yard.
6. On completion of the procedure observe the animal for signs of excessive distress and treat as required.
7. After finishing:
   - If the handler is air assisted, disconnect all air hose fittings and turn off the compressor
   - Clean the handler and work area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]

CHAIR OF AEC

REFERENCES