

## RUM\_023 Administration of a Rumen Bolus

### I. OBJECTIVE

To describe the safe administration of a rumen bolus to adult ruminants

### II. DEFINITIONS

**Competent** - “the consistent application of knowledge and skill to the standard of performance required regarding the care and use of animals. It embodies the ability to transfer and apply knowledge and skill to new situations and environments.” (as per, Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 2013)

### III. COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

- Animals should be restrained using appropriate methods for the size and type of animal. For example, mature cattle should be restrained in a cattle crush using a head bail with or without a halter and lead rope for safety of both the animal and operator. Sheep, goats, and young calves may be restrained manually unless their size and temperament prohibit safe manual handling.
- As per routine the conditions (see document footer) this procedure must be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, personnel who are competent to perform the procedure.

### IV. EQUIPMENT

- Bolus gun or applicator (often specific to bolus type) - *these are purpose-designed to be able to withstand the bite-strength of the ruminants’ molars (note: ruminants will crush and chew through plastic tubing or subpar equipment if placed in their throat).*
- Bolus to be administered

### V. PROCEDURE

- Restrain animal in head bail or use manual restraint
- Elevate head slightly and extend neck
- Ensure bolus is correctly inserted into the applicator
- Insert thumb into the gap between the incisors and molars and open the animal’s mouth
- Carefully insert the applicator and gently move it to the back of the mouth
- Guide the applicator gently down the throat and into the oesophagus, as the animal swallows (do not force the applicator as it may damage the oesophagus).  
*The applicator is in the correct placement in the oesophagus if you can feel it behind the trachea*
- Once the handle of the gun is flush against the corner of the mouth release the bolus and then withdraw the applicator.
- Monitor animals after bolus insertion to ensure no adverse effects

Version #	Reviewing AEC (note: all other relevant AECs ratify the approval)	AEC Review Date	Approval To Date
1	PCA	16/03/2022	16/03/2025

#### Conditions:

- Investigators named in an animal ethics application, relative to this SOP, must be competent to implement the SOP
- Any variation to this SOP must be described in the relevant animal ethics application
- If this SOP has not been reviewed and approved by a UQ AEC within the last three years it is no longer valid and cannot be used in animal ethics applications until reapproved (see “AEC Reviewed/Approved” date in this document’s header).