

SOP No: AHP 60

SUBJECT: Maintenance of a Rumenal Cannula

POLICY: The care and maintenance of fistulated animals resides solely with the CI during the active phase of the trial and for ONE MONTH after the completion of the project. Responsibility for fistulated animals may be passed to the facility manager during the inactive phase and at the termination of the trial. Animals must not be kept longer than 12 months after the completion of the project unless there is a strong possibility that they will be re-used. A separate record must be kept of each fistulated animal and the AWO notified in writing of any change of responsibility for the care of the animal including the name(s) and qualifications of those nominated.

PRECAUTIONS: Restrain animals before attempting these procedures.

EQUIPMENT: Protective clothing
Protective boots
Rubber gloves
Soapy water
Mild detergent

PROCEDURE:

WEEKLY

1. Clean and groom the animal removing debris and dried rumenal fluid.
2. Check cannula for cracks and leaks.
3. Clean the area under the outer flange of the cannula with soapy water or hose.
4. Run the finger around the internal flange and check for obstructions especially impactions into the ruminal wall.
5. Record the condition of the animal and fistula.

EVERY 4 MONTHS

1. Remove the entire cannula.
2. Submerge the cannula in warm soapy water/mild detergent, removing debris and thoroughly clean the cannula.
3. Examine the skin and rumen surfaces surrounding the fistula.
4. Rinse the cannula and carefully replace in the fistula.
5. Record the event and any comments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

***In vitro* methods should be used wherever possible.
Fistulated animals should be re-used to minimize animal
usage. The usual AEC approval is required for new
projects.
Animals must be large enough be fistulated with a snugly
fitting cannula.**

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REFERENCES

**"Compendium of approved procedures". Division of animal production. C S I R O Division of
Animal Health Armidale, 2350 pp 42-49 1995**

**Guidelines for long-term care and maintenance of animals with permanent rumen fistulas at
Penn State Dec, 2002. <http://www.research.psu.edu/orp/ani/GUIDE/XII.htm>**

McSweeney, C.S. (1989). Cannulation of the rumen in cattle and buffaloes. *Aust. Vet J* 66:8, 266.