

SOP No: AHT 27(b)

SUBJECT: Ear Tagging (banding) in rodents

POLICY: Where it is necessary to permanently identify mice, the least painful method must be used.
This procedure must be performed by an experienced operator.
Mice >21 days must be anaesthetised.

PRECAUTIONS: Gloves, mask, long-sleeve gown, closed in shoes

EQUIPMENT applicator
Numbered tags
anaesthetic (for mice >21 days).

PROCEDURE:

1. Hold the mice by the scruff or anaesthetise mouse.
2. Place the ear tag in the applicator keeping the hole side of the tag flat against the jaw of the applicator with the indentation.
3. Locate the tag within the ear, applying beyond the ring of cartilage in the distal third of the ear at its base.
4. Ensure that the tag point has penetrated the hole and seals correctly.
5. Apply pressure with a sterile swab to encourage clotting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Consider alternative sources of identification (tattoo, microchip)
2. Tags should be immersed in alcohol to prevent infection.
3. Monitor the animals for signs of infection and to ensure that the tag is not interfering with normal behaviour.

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REVISED:

REFERENCES

1. Methods of Identification in *Handbook of Laboratory Animal Science 2nd Edition*; Vol I Essential Principles and Practices, (2002) Edited by J. Hau and G.L. VanHoosier, Jr., CRC Press, pp363-365
2. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, National Research Council, National Academy Press, 1996, page 46.