

**SOP No:** AHT 32

**SUBJECT:** Tail Bleed Rat

**POLICY:** Tail Bleeding may only be performed once unless otherwise approved by the AEC.  
This technique should only be attempted once weekly.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Gloves, eye protection, long-sleeved gown, closed in shoes

**EQUIPMENT:**  
70% Alcohol  
Swabs  
Heat lamp  
23 gauge needle  
Collection tube

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Warm animals by placing cage under a heat lamp for 10-15 mins. **DO NOT LEAVE UNATTENDED.**
2. Restrain animal using preferred holding style or anaesthetise rat with anaesthetic of choice (specify dose rate, route of injection and volume.)
3. Swab tail with 70% alcohol
4. Insert needle into the vein and allow the blood to flow into the tube. Blood flow may be aided by gently running the thumb along the length of the tail.
5. Attempt to insert the needle as close to the tip end of the tail as practicable to allow for failed attempts.
6. Expect to recover 1ml (250g rat)-2mls (450g rat) by this method.
7. Remove needle and apply gentle pressure with the swab to encourage clotting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**DATE ISSUED:** 18.2.2004

**REVISED:** 25.02.2009

**REFERENCES**

1. Perspectives on Animal Use Biological Effects of Blood Loss: Implications for Sampling Volumes and Techniques. In: ILAR News (1989), 31(4).
2. Removal of blood from laboratory mammals and birds: First report of the BVA/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint working group on refinement. Lab Anim (1993) 27, 1-22.
3. J. Donovan and P. Brown. Blood Collection. In: Current Protocols in Immunology, (eds: A. Kruisbeek et al), John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY, USA, Unit 1.7.