

- SOP No:** AHT 40
- SUBJECT:** Ear bleed - Rabbit
- PRECAUTIONS:** Gloves, eye protection, mask, long-sleeved gown, closed in shoes.
- POLICY:** No more than 4 bleeds (at 2 weekly intervals) are permitted without AEC approval.
- EQUIPMENT:** 70% ethanol  
Catheter  
Swabs  
No 22 scalpel blade  
Collection tube  
(Xylazine 1mg/kg, 1ml syringe, 25g needle)
- PROCEDURE:**
1. Sedate rabbit (if required)
  2. Restrain rabbit by wrapping and tying in a soft towel.
  3. Swab and shave the ear around the blood vessel and apply gentle heat if necessary.
  4. Occlude the vessel and insert the catheter into the vein/artery.
  5. Following collection, apply pressure/iced swabs to encourage clotting.
  6. With large bleeds exceeding 20ml replace lost blood volume with normal saline.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

If a rubefaciant has been used, ensure that it is removed at the end of the procedure. A maximum of 7.5 – 10% of Blood Volume may be removed once every 2 weeks. Removal of a volume of 10 – 20% should be replaced with an equal volume of 0.9% saline or equivalent. Restoration of normal haematological values may take up to 2 – 3 weeks. A topical anaesthetic cream should be considered.

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**REFERENCES**

1. 1993. Removal of Blood from Laboratory Animals and Birds. First report of the BVA/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group on Refinement. *Laboratory Animals*. 27. 1-22
2. McGill, W.M., and Rowan, A.N. 1989. Biological Effects of Blood Loss: Implications for Sampling Volumes and Techniques. *ILAR News* 31(4).