

SOP No: AHT 41

SUBJECT: Terminal bleed- Rabbit.

POLICY: Operator must be experienced and competent in this technique.
Animal must be monitored to ensure that death has occurred.

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

EQUIPMENT: 70% ethanol
Catheter
swabs
No 22 scalpel blade
50 ml collection tubes
2ml syringes with 25g needles
50ml syringe and 18g needle
Lethobarb (60 mg/kg in 2ml syringe with 18g needle)
Xylazine 3mg/kg
Ketamine 10mg/kg

PROCEDURE:

1. Restrain rabbit by wrapping and tying in a soft towel.
2. Inject Xylazine S/C or I/M (specify dose and volume).
3. Swab and shave the ear around the blood vessel and apply gentle heat if necessary.
4. Occlude the vessel and slowly inject Ketamine I/V to effect (specify dose).
5. Place rabbit on its back and using the elbow as a guide insert the 18g needle with 50ml syringe attached into the chest cavity at the level of the 5th or 6th intercostal space.
6. Enter the heart and withdraw blood slowly. Remove and replace the syringe and fill the collection tubes. Repeat until blood no longer appears in the needle.
7. Inject Lethobarb directly into heart or open the chest cavity and recover residual blood/clots.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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REFERENCES

JAVMA (2000). Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia. JAVMA 218, 679-680 (March 2001)