

SOP No:	ATT 01
SUBJECT:	Abdominocentesis in Cattle
POLICY:	This procedure may only be performed by, or under the supervision of an operator skilled in the technique
PRECAUTIONS:	Aseptic conditions are required to avoid introduction of infectious pathogens into the abdominal cavity. Restraint of the animal is necessary for the procedure, ideally a crush with a headlock. In mature cattle, the choice of sites for abdominocentesis is a problem because the rumen occupies a large portion of the ventral abdominal wall, and avoiding its penetration may prove difficult.
EQUIPMENT:	Lignocaine 2% Animal Clippers Sterile teat cannula or 18 gauge X 5 cm needle (needle length depends on body wall thickness) Alcohol (or other surgical preparation solution) swabs Iodine (or other surgical preparation solution) swabs Scalpel blade # 11 (or similar) Sterile gloves Collection tubes appropriate for the analysis intended
PROCEDURE:	1. <u>Abdominocentesis sites:</u> a) Left of the midline, approximately 3 to 4 cm medial and 5 to 7 cm cranial to the foramen where the mammary vein enters the ventral body wall. b) 10 cm cranial and 10 cm to the right of the umbilicus. c) 5 to 10 cm caudal to the xiphisternum and 8 to 10 cm lateral (either to the left or right) of the midline. 2. <u>Procedure:</u> The selected site is clipped, prepared using aseptic technique, and infiltrated with lignocaine 2% to anesthetize the skin and underlying muscles. The animal is restrained by applying a tail jack. Wearing sterile gloves, a small stab incision is made through the skin and a metal teat cannula is pushed carefully and slowly through the abdominal wall, which will twitch when the peritoneum is punctured. Alternatively and without a stab incision, an 18 gauge needle may be gently pushed into the peritoneal cavity. If only a needle is used to collect fluid, local anaesthetic is not required. It may be necessary to re-position the needle or cannula before fluid is obtained. Fluid may be collected directly into the collection tubes.
RECOMMENDATIONS:	Results of the abdominocentesis will guide further diagnostic or therapeutic plans.
DATE APPROVED:	April 2009
REVISED:	

REFERENCES

1. Malmø J, 2005. Diagnosing disease in herds of cattle including toxicosis, clinical pathology and crush side test. Medicine of Dairy Cattle: Be the Boss of Bovine Medicine Seminar