

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING

SOP No: ATT 026

SUBJECT: Venipuncture in horses

POLICY: Minimum number of 2 operators required.

Demonstrator: Operators should be familiar with the correct techniques and the anatomy of horses before demonstrating this procedure.

Students: Procedures should be clearly demonstrated before student attempts them. Students should be aware of the requirements for aseptic technique.

PRECAUTIONS: Operators must use gloves and disinfect them between animals to prevent the transmission of blood-borne diseases
Wear sturdy footwear
Equipment must be cleaned between animals
Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling horses.
Procedures should only be attempted two times per animal
Animals may be sampled twice daily.

EQUIPMENT: 21 gauge needles
10 ml Vacutainers or syringes
Vacutainer holders
Alcohol Swabs
Halter

PROCEDURE: **Jugular bleeding**
Blood can be collected from the jugular vein in either side of the neck in horses of all ages.

1. The handler restrains the animal with the head slightly elevated. The jugular groove is identified. The vein is occluded with digital pressure at the base of the jugular groove.
2. A needle is advanced through the skin either with a firm thrust into the jugular vein or by gently easing the needle through the skin and into the jugular vein at a 35° angle towards the head. When the desired volume is received, digital pressure may be removed and the needle withdrawn from the vein.

On completion of procedure observe animal for signs of excessive distress and treated if necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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REFERENCES

1. McCurnin, D. M. & Bassert, J.M. 2006, Clinical textbook for veterinary technicians. Elsevier Saunders, 119.