

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES  
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING

**SOP No:** ATT 028

**SUBJECT:** Blood sampling sheep and goats

**POLICY:** Minimum number of 2 operators.

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

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

**PRECAUTIONS:** Wear sturdy footwear and sun protection  
Sheep and goats should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure.  
Understand the flight zone of the animals.  
Animals should not be overcrowded in yards.  
Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals.  
Procedure may be repeated if animals remain quiet and are not distressed by handling.  
Procedure should only be repeated 2 times per animal. For research purposes, animals may be sampled twice daily

**EQUIPMENT:** Crush or yards  
Needles 18 gauge  
Vacutainers and holder  
Gloves

**PROCEDURE:**

1. One operator will stand astride the standing animal and restrain it whilst holding the head up and away from the vein to be sampled. The other operator will identify the jugular vein by applying digital pressure to the jugular groove. Sheep with long wool may need to be clipped prior to this procedure.
2. The needle is advanced through the skin 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 When the desired volume is received, digital pressure may be removed and the needle withdrawn from the vein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.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**DATE ISSUED:** 24.06.2009

**REVISED:**

### REFERENCES

1. Wolfensohn, S & Lloyd M, 1998, *Handbook of Laboratory Animal Management and Welfare*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Blackwell Science.
2. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/general/other/livestock/sop/sheep/blood-collection>