

SOP No: ATT 031

SUBJECT: Collecting blood from poultry

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

Students: Procedures should be clearly demonstrated to students before they handle birds.

PRECAUTIONS: Covered footwear and disposable gloves.
Dust masks may be required depending on risk.
Do not pick up birds by the neck or legs.
Birds should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure.
Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling birds.
Birds are susceptible to stress. Excessive exertion may have adverse effects on the bird's health and production. Ensure that the bird's sternum is not restricted
Change needles between birds.
Equipment such as vacutainer holders should also be cleaned between animals.
Do not take more than 5ml blood per bird per day.
Sample blood only once per bird per day.

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

PROCEDURE:

Wing bleeding

1. One operator places the bird on its side on a table and extends a wing.
2. Pluck a few feathers along the medial surface to expose the brachial vein as it crosses the elbow.
3. The other operator places the needle at a slight angle, bevel upwards, against the vein on the underside of the wing.
4. Insert the needle into the vein and slowly withdraw blood until the desired volume is received.
5. Remove the needle and apply pressure to the puncture site for a few seconds to reduce the formation of a haematoma.

On completion of procedure observe animal for signs of excessive distress and treat if required.
Ensure the bird is not entangled in the cage or pen door.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE ISSUED:

REVISED:

REFERENCES

1. McCurnin, D. M. & Bassett, J.M. 2006, Clinical textbook for veterinary technicians. Elsevier Saunders, 79.
2. <http://ohioline.osu.edu/vme-fact/0023.html>