

- SOP No:** ATT 033
- SUBJECT:** Urinary Catheterization of Female Ruminants
- POLICY:** This procedure may only be performed by operators skilled in the technique
- PRECAUTIONS:** Hygienic conditions are required to avoid introduction of infectious pathogens into the urinary bladder during the procedure. The perivulvar area should be cleaned with a disinfectant solution and the tail should be restrained to prevent recontamination of the area. Standard restraint of the animal is adequate. For cattle this is ideally in a crush with a headlock. In smaller ruminants restraint may be achieved by manual restraint in the standing position. An assistant may be required.
- EQUIPMENT:** catheters of suitable size  
gloves  
disinfectant solution (iodine or chlorhexidine based)  
disposable paper towels  
sterile syringes (e.g. two 20 to 60 mL, sized to animal size)  
collection tubes and culturettes  
sterile lubricant
- PROCEDURE:**
- 1. Restraint:** The animal is restrained using methods appropriate for its size and demeanour.
  - 2. Preparation of area:** The perivulvar area is cleaned with disinfectant and may be patted dry with disposable towels.
  - 3. Catheterization:** Wearing gloves lubricated with sterile lubricant, one hand for cattle or one finger for sheep and goats is inserted through the vulva into the caudal vagina and the external urethral opening identified. A small amount of sterile lubricant is placed on the tip of the catheter, the catheter tip passed through the urethral opening (taking care to avoid the ventral diverticulum) and on into the bladder. Urine flowing through the catheter may be collected directly into collection tubes or onto culturettes, or aspirated into a syringe.
  - 4. Post-procedure care:** None required. If animal has a history and/or clinical signs of urinary tract disease, medical therapy may be considered.
- RECOMMENDATIONS:** Sample analysis will determine therapeutic recommendations.
- DATE ISSUED:** 24.06.2009
- REVISED:**

#### REFERENCES

1. **Chapter 18. Clinical examination of the urinary system.** T.R. Kasari (cattle, sheep, goats, horses and pigs) In: *Veterinary Clinical Examination and Diagnosis*. O.M. Radostits, I.G. Joe Mayhew, Doreen M. Houston (editors). WB Saunders 2000. ISBN 0-7020-2476-7