

SOP No:	ATT 04
SUBJECT:	Collection of Blood Sample for Tick Fever Diagnosis in Cattle
POLICY:	This procedure may only be performed by or under the supervision of an operator skilled in the technique
PRECAUTIONS:	Restraint of the animal is required to carry out the procedure. If the tip of ear is elected as the site for collection, restraint of the head with halter and nose pliers may be necessary
EQUIPMENT:	Scissors 18 Gauge Needles Microscope Slides
PROCEDURE:	The tip of the tail is the best site for collecting capillary blood. Venous or arterial blood is not as good for diagnosis. Clip the hair from the tail tip or fold the brush to expose the skin. Rub off any dirt or scurf with a swab. With a milking action pull thumb and forefinger down the tail towards the tip. Holding this pressure, prick the tail tip with a needle and wait for a drop of blood to well up. Collect this drop of blood by touching the corner of a microscope slide to it then rapidly make a blood smear on a clean glass slide. Air dry.
RECOMMENDATIONS:	Use a new sterile needle for each animal. Collection of the sample after insertion of the needle should be done as soon as possible to avoid clotting of the blood.
DATE APPROVED:	April 2009
REVISED:	

REFERENCES

1. Making blood smears for tick fever diagnosis. Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries. DPI&F Note. Website: <http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/health/3626.html>