

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING

SOP No: ATT 056

SUBJECT: Drenching and mouthing sheep and cattle

POLICY: Minimum number of two operators required.

Demonstrator: Experience in these procedures.

Students: Competence in sheep and cattle handling

PRECAUTIONS:

Wear sturdy footwear and sun protection

Sheep and cattle should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure.

Understand the flight zone of the animal.

Animals should not be overcrowded in yards.

Cattle should be restrained in a head bail.

Sheep should be restrained by the crush or a second operator.

Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals.

Procedures should be carried out no more than twice on each animal on each occasion. Animals may be used again at not less than weekly intervals. It is preferable to use quiet animals accustomed to restraint. Animals which respond aggressively to restraint should not be used for teaching.

EQUIPMENT:

Crush or yards

Drench gun

PROCEDURE:

1. **Drenching:** The drenching gun is passed gently, but firmly, over the back of the tongue, taking care to avoid damage to the mouth and gums. Care must be taken to avoid passage of drench into the trachea. It is most important to read the label of the drench carefully before beginning, taking into account method of administration, dose rates, and suitable equipment for administration of the drench and withholding periods.
2. **Mouthing.** Examination of the mouth may be performed to:
 - (i) Determine the age of a beast;
 - (ii) Check for loss of teeth and condition of teeth;
 - (iii) Examine the mouth for evidence of foreign bodies, grass seed abscesses or other disease.

The lower lip can be manipulated by hand in a well designed head bail. The routine use of nose pliers is not recommended in cattle.

On completion of procedure observe animal for signs of excessive distress and treat as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE ISSUED: 24.06.2009

REVISED:

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/research-teaching/policies/sop/cattle/drenching-mouthing>