



SOP 4.02 Drenching/ Mouthing Cattle

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Purpose

- (1) The objective of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance to the Charles Sturt University staff on:
 - a. Drenching- to administer pharmaceuticals by the oral route
 - b. Mouthing- to examine the mouth of an animal

Scope

- (2) This procedure applies to any person who is involved in AEC approved projects involving cattle.
- (3) All researchers and teaching staff using animals for scientific purposes must be competent. For definition of competency refer to Charles Sturt University's Policy on 'Animal Care Competency Training and Assessment'

Details of procedure

Mouthing:

- (4) Examination of the mouth may be performed to:
 - a. Determine the age of an animal
 - b. Examine the mouth for evidence of foreign bodies, grass seed abscesses or other disease; or
 - c. Administer a drench, usually an anthelmintic, veterinary treatment or a controlled release device.
- (5) Nose pliers may be required, but with a well-designed head bail and docile cattle, the lower lip can be manipulated by hand. The routine use of nose pliers is not recommended as they upset cattle.

Drenching:

- (6) The drenching gun is passed over the back of the tongue (including the torus), taking care to avoid damage to the mouth and gums. Care must be taken to avoid passage of the drench into the trachea.
- (7) The drench label must be read carefully before beginning the procedure, taking into account method of administration, dose rates, suitable equipment for administration of the drench and withholding periods.
- (8) The use of cattle hook drench gun extensions in the race may be used by experienced operators only.



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Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents

- (9) Whichever drench is required.

Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals

- (10) Minimal if handled quietly. Animals which are regularly handled will be less stressed than others. The use of low stress handling and restraint techniques are necessary for this procedure.

Animal care

- (11) Livestock should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure, using minimal stress techniques.

Pain relief

- (12) Not required

Reuse and repeated use

- (13) 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 be identified and not be used for teaching.

Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure

- (14) Demonstrator: Experience in the procedure
(15) Students: Competence in cattle handling

Record requirements

- (16) Farm records will be kept of cattle that have been administered drench for withholding purposes.

Associated documentation (including pictures if available)

- (17) N/A

Glossary

- (18) N/A



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References and relevant links

(19) N/A