

## Small ruminant pregnancy testing

### Category

3. Minor conscious intervention

### Objective

To facilitate the diagnosis of pregnancy and multiple pregnancies, including ewes and does.

### Alternatives to animal use

Video presentation

### Drugs, chemicals or biological agents

Nil

### Procedure

The female is restrained in a comfortable position, with appropriate equipment if necessary. This may include being restrained within a race or crate in a standing position, in a reclining position restrained in a V belt, or being held in a sitting position. The procedure is carried out according to the instruction manual for the particular piece of equipment being used. Typically, pregnancy testing is conducted using transabdominal ultrasound. Either obstetrical lubricant or water is applied to the fibre-free area of the abdomen beside the udder, to facilitate skin contact. The scanning device is applied to the surface of the skin and the uterus is examined on the computer screen. A spray mark may be sprayed on the animal, different colours representing fetal number, to facilitate later separation into management groups. The animal is then released.

### Animal Wellbeing

Nil

### Pain Relief

Not needed.

### Animal Care

Nil

### Reuse and repeated use

Females should only be restrained for a maximum of 10 minutes in a teaching situation.

### Qualification, experience or training necessary to perform procedure

All operators should be familiar with the behaviour, handling methods and anatomy of small ruminants. In addition, operators should be familiar with the techniques involved with scanning.