



SOP 4.1 Collection of fleece sample from small ruminants

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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. Collection of fleece sample from small ruminants

Scope

- (2) This procedure applies to any person who is involved in AEC approved projects involving small ruminants such as sheep that require collection of a wool sample, whole fleece, or removal of fleece as part of normal animal husbandry.
- (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

Fleece Sampling (non-shearing):

- (4) Animals are restrained by hand (sitting on rear as per normal shearing) or in a race/crush. Sharp electric clippers or shears are used to clip the required location/area and the fleece collected. Amount of sample is dependent on purpose, but a couple of mms of wool (minimum) as per normal shearing would remain to ensure that sheep are less susceptible to inclement weather post procedure.

Fleece Sampling (shearing):

- (5) Animals are shorn by a competent shearer using industry-accepted procedure. The fleece is collected from the shearing board after the animal is shorn.

Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents

- (6) N/A

Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals

- (7) Minor Conscious Intervention – ensuring sheep are never placed directly on their spine, or with legs stretched prevents discomfort and unnecessary stress.

Animal care

- (8) Standard visual monitoring of animal before, during and after procedure for signs of distress.



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Pain relief

(9) N/A (Nil)

Reuse and repeated use

(10) Procedures may be repeated if animals remain quiet and are not distressed. Animals that are inadvertently cut during the procedure should not be reused until wounds have completely healed.

Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure

- (11) Animals should be shorn by competent shearers familiar with the species.
- (12) Demonstrator: Experience in the procedure.
- (13) Students: Demonstration of the technique and performance of the procedure under supervision.

Record requirements

(14) No additional record requirements other than standard farm or research monitoring sheets.

Associated documentation (including pictures if available)

(15) N/A

Glossary

(16) N/A

References and relevant links

(17) N/A