SOP 9.07 Application of branding fluids to sheep or goats

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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. Application of branding fluids to sheep and goats.

Scope

(2) This procedure applies to any person who is involved in AEC approved projects involving sheep or goats.

(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

Application:

(4) Coloured brands (marks) are applied to the wool/fibre of sheep or goats to assist in identification of management procedures. Only appropriate chemicals should be used to avoid skin irritation or damage to wool, and include specifically formulated branding fluids, spray raddles, and chalk raddles. Animals should be sufficiently restrained to enable adequate placement of the brand, which may be in a race, pen, or while held. A brand may be applied to the wool surface on any part of the animal but is usually applied to the head or back where it is easily visible. Midside brands may be used to assist in identification in paddock situations e.g., lambing ewes. Care should be taken to avoid spraying raddles into eyes. The size of the mark should be minimised to reduce discounts for wool.

Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents

(5) Branding fluid specifically formulated for the purpose, spray or chalk raddles.

Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals

(6) Low impact.

Animal care

(7) No special requirements.

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Pain relief

(8)   Not required.

Reuse and repeated use

(9)   Animals may be repeatedly marked for different purposes.

Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure

(10)   None

Record requirements

(11)   N/A

Associated documentation (including pictures if available)

(12)   N/A

Glossary

(13)   N/A

References and relevant links

(14)   N/A