



SOP 9.11 Collection of urine from sheep (SOP 099)

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Purpose

- (1) The objective of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance to the Charles Sturt University staff on collection of urine from sheep.

Scope

- (2) This procedure applies to any person who is involved in AEC approved projects involving sheep where the experiment requires the collection of urine samples
- (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

- (4) This procedure requires two people. The sheep is restrained by placing the animal in a sitting position on its rump. Cord may be loosely tied around 2 legs with larger sheep to improve the safety of persons conducting the procedure. Alternatively, the sheep may be held in a standing position.
- (5) The person holding the sheep places one or both hands over the nose and mouth of the sheep to prevent breathing, for up to 30 seconds (maximum). This will cause the animal to urinate.
- (6) The urine is collected by a 2nd person into a receptacle held close to the pizzle (wethers) or vulva (ewes). The sheep is then immediately released.
- (7) If the sheep does not urinate, the procedure may be repeated once breathing returns to normal, and may be repeated a third time, but will not be repeated again if this is not successful.

Safety and Risk considerations

- (8) Injury related to handling of sheep (trodden or knocked over by a sheep):
 - a. Both students and staff involved with lifting or handling animals will be required to wear appropriate footwear and overalls.
 - b. When lifting animals, based on the weight, the person involved will bend their knees and also be helped with another person to restrain the animal.
 - c. Staff and students are to take utmost care to ensure correct practices are followed during urine collection and use safe work methods.
- (9) Exposure of students/staff to any pathogen in animal faeces or body fluids:
 - a. PPE should be worn such as gloves, masks, overalls and enclosed shoes or boots capable of being washed and disinfected as necessary.
 - b. All staff and students are either screened and found to be antibody positive for or vaccinated against Q fever.



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Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents

(10) Nil

Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals

(11) Temporary stress due to handling

Animal care

(12) Animal to be released after the procedure and observed to ensure that breathing returns to normal.

Pain relief

(13) None – the procedure should not cause pain.

Reuse and repeated use

(14) Urine may be collected from the same animal only once per day.

Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure

(15) Demonstrator: highly competent in handling sheep

(16) Students: competent in sheep handling if holding sheep. Instruction, but not experience in sheep handling, if students are only holding the receptacle to collect urine.

Record requirements

(17) Record procedure for annual reporting.

Associated documentation (including pictures if available)

(18) Nil

Glossary

(19) Nil

References and relevant links

(20) SOP 9.26 Ovine cumulative use measurement