

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES - SHEEP

SOP099 - Collection of urine

Recommended instructor to student ratio: 1:15

Category

3. Minor conscious intervention

Objective

To collect urine from sheep

Alternatives to animal use

None

Equipment

Gloves

Urine container – 50 ml

Closed footwear

Safety and Risk considerations

Injury related to handling of sheep (trodden or knocked over by a sheep) - Both student and Staff involved with lifting or handling animals will be required to wear appropriate footwear and overalls. 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. Staff and student to take utmost care to ensure correct practices are followed during urine collection and use safe work methods.

Exposure of students/staff to any pathogen in animal faeces or body fluids- PPE such as gloves, masks, overalls and enclosed shoes or boots capable of being washed and disinfected as necessary. All staff and students are either screened and found to be antibody +ve for or vaccinated against Q fever.

Drugs, chemicals or biological agents

None

Procedure

This procedure requires 2 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. 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. 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. 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.

Impact on wellbeing of animals

Stress due to handling, however this is temporary

Animal Care

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

Pain Relief

None – the procedure should not cause pain.

Reuse and repeated use

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

Qualification, experience or training necessary to perform procedure

Demonstrator: highly competent in handling sheep

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.

References and relevant links

Not Applicable